

pipe. Now, bearing in mind that at the spot no current runs eastward or westward, to carry off the discharged sewage, and that in summer calms, or under winter ice shelter, the flow of the intruding sewage must tend towards the sucking mouth of the pipe, can any one be surprised that the water forced up to the asylum was often very impure? Particles of fæcal matter were said to be sometimes detectable in it. This state of things, despite of all complaints and remonstrances, continued up to the time when the Grand Trunk Railway cutting through the garrison common, broke the connexion, and sent the sewage down one side to the bay, debouching very odorously over the beach, at a point 150 yards, or more, from its previous outlet. Could any so monstrous and death-dealing an outrage ever have been perpetrated by a competent Board of Health; or had any such occurred before its organization, would it have been tolerated for a single month afterwards? But it was, under the existing regime, tolerated for six years, and all who remember the consequent incubations of endemic cholera, erysipelas, dysenteries, intractable diarrhœas, and other obstinate affections, with which the medical staff had to contend, will admit that though ignorance of sanitary science, on the part of men in authority, may be a very comfortable garment to them, it is very far from blissful to those who are doomed to bear the consequences of their blunders. The preceding details are but a meagre sample of the bundle of evils bequeathed to the Toronto Asylum by its founders.

The Toronto General Hospital, though subsequently, after much trouble and expenditure, greatly improved, was another most ignorantly located and constructed edifice. For the sake of a little saving in cost of a suitable site, it was placed in a distant corner of the city, almost as inconvenient as possible for prompt and easy access by the sick or wounded destined to seek its benefits. The drainage was as defective as it could possibly be contrived. As to the ventilation, it was as hugely negative as though the architect had taken honours in a college, where the science of "how not to do things" was regarded as the noblest branch of human knowledge. Some who may now hear me, may not have forgotten the time when our best and most thoughtful surgeons approached important operations in that forcing-

house of septicæmia with fear and trembling. I pointed out to some of the building committee, at the commencement of the work, a few of the blunders they were about to commit; but I might as well have whistled jigs to a mile stone; for that respectable indicator of progress was but little less endowed with hygienic knowledge, than they showed themselves to be. They had been captivated by the æsthetic lights and shadings of the draftsman, and they felt confident that so much outside beauty must be linked with corresponding internal excellence. So much for devolving on men unqualified for the duty, the direction of important public erections, whether as regards selection of appropriate sites, or the adoption of effective structural arrangements.

A third large, and eventually very costly public institution at London, has been trumpeted into celebrity within the last decade. This was, in its early months, lauded by the admirers and flatterers of its projectors, and of course, by the projectors themselves, as 'the Model Lunatic Asylum, not only of our Dominion, but of this Continent. I heard a member of the economic Sanfield Macdonald government, tell an assemblage of intelligent alienists that he and his confrères had then established the fact, that lodging and maintenance could be provided for lunatics at 50 per cent. less cost than had been required at Toronto. The Hon. Premier had himself told me, before that date, that he was going "to run the London asylum" at 25 per cent. *per caput* less than the Toronto patients cost; and he asked me what I had to say to that. I replied that, for the present, I could say nothing, but if he would wait for seven years, we might be better able to discuss the question. More than seven years have now passed, but my sanguine competitor is now beyond the realm of lunacy, and I am sure should he and I meet hereafter, we shall not quarrel over the question. Examination of the public accounts by his colleague, will now show him how very far short of his exultations, have fallen the actual savings of their model asylum.

As relates to the structural qualifications of this cheap-John edifice, I cannot do better than here quote the following depiction of them, given by Dr. Bucke, the present talented and honest speaking medical superintendent, at the last annual meeting of American superintendents, held at Washington. Dr. Bucke spoke as follows:—