

This suggestion is not with the idea of casting any reflection upon the management of our provincial hospital. It is as good as the present system can make it, and the superintendent one of the ablest in the Dominion. But I do say that no two men can do justice to a colony of invalids, such as our province has to support; and, further, that the associations of an asylum are not those in which you would care to see your wife, mother, or daughter placed except as a last resort; nor are such associations calculated to restore the weakened bodies or recuperate exhausted neurons. Not until we had exhausted all other means at our disposal should we desire such an environment.

Another point we must not lose sight of is the odium (the result of ages of ignorance, I admit) which attaches to detention in a provincial hospital, which, while it may be ridiculed in such a discussion as this, is sufficient to blast the prospects of any man or woman who holds a position of trust, or prominence. Also with such detention hospitals, a radical change could be made in our methods of commitment, which have so frequently been criticized, all of which would, of course, require an amendment to the Lunacy Act.

I may say that nervous wards are being added to many of the Eastern hospitals, in which certain controllable types of insanity are being treated.

As an indication of the inadequacy of the present equipment to meet the requirements of the case, I shall refer to the report of the Provincial Hospital for the Insane for the year 1902, in which Dr. Manchester makes the following statement:

"TREATMENT.

"The methods of treatment pursued during the past year have not differed from those employed in the year before, as outlined in last report, and while they have been as successful as usual, and results compare favorably with those obtained in other years, yet I would not be doing my duty if I allowed you to think that our methods are as advanced as they should be. We lack many facilities, even primary ones, for carrying on the most modern and scientific treatment of the insane, and narrowly escape ranking as a mere house of detention.

"If you were to remove from this institution all the patients' bedrooms, dining-rooms, lavatories and closets, together with the kitchen and heating plant, officers and attendants' quarters and the newly-erected shops, what would be left? Almost nothing.