

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

ROBERT CHRISTIE, ESQ.,
Inspector of Charities, etc.

SIR,—At your request I send you the Physician's Report of the Institution for the education of the Blind, at Brantford, for the year ending September 30, 1890. It has been a year with much more than the usual amount of sickness, owing largely to the spread of the epidemic la grippe. I am pleased, however, to inform you that we have had no deaths to record during the year. About the 4th of November, 1889, a lad aged eleven years was taken ill with typhoid fever, the germs of which he brought with him from his home, where, we subsequently ascertained, several members of his family were down with typhoid fever a short time before his return to the Institution. When satisfied that his fever was typhoid, he was at once removed, by order of the Principal, to the John H. Stratford Hospital, where he made a good recovery. Every precaution having been taken at the Institution by way of disinfection, etc., we had no more cases of it. About the 11th of November, 1889, two pupils on the boys' side were almost simultaneously taken ill with sore throats, both aged about ten years. They were at once isolated, and on the second day a rash appeared on them both, showing plainly the disease to be scarlet fever. How this disease came into the Institution I am not prepared to say. There were quite a number of cases in the city at the same time, and from that source probably the disease was introduced in some way. Very fortunately, however, we prevented the disease from spreading. A special nurse was procured by the Principal, and complete isolation and thorough disinfection maintained till all danger was passed. Both boys made a good recovery. On the 8th day of January, 1890, the epidemic la grippe made its appearance among the pupils of the Institution and spread rapidly, often ten to fifteen being ill at the same time with it, till over one hundred were sickened by it. Our plan of treatment proved very successful. Those who were ill enough to go to bed were placed in warm, well ventilated rooms; quinine in tonic doses given to them with nitrate of potash enough to keep the secreting organs active. This, with careful feeding with spoon food was all that was necessary in the large majority of cases. Some few having lung complications or severe headaches, required special treatment. Care was taken not to allow patients recovering from la grippe to expose themselves to draughts or to go to work too soon. The very complete recovery made by all the pupils attacked by this epidemic is largely due to the careful watchfulness of the officers in charge. My observations during the past year but confirm what I said in my last report to you, that is that the rules and discipline of this Institution tend to decidedly improve the health and vigor of the pupils in attendance.

I have the honour to be,
 Your obedient servant,

D. MARQUIS.