

Education for British Columbia contains an excellent article by Dr. Fagan, Secretary of the British Columbia Board of Health.

As soon as public opinion has been moulded by education, special legislation can be enacted as in other communicable diseases, as smallpox, scarlet fever and diphtheria, with equally gratifying results.

HOSPITAL LEGISLATION.

At the last session of our local legislature important amendments were made to "The Charity Aid Act" which will have a salutary effect upon the maintenance and management of our hospitals. The provisions of the amended act will largely prevent hospital abuse. Each municipality must now pay for the treatment of its sick poor "at the rate of not more than one dollar per day."

Hitherto patients, well able to pay the local practitioner, have scuttled off to Winnipeg and Brandon and received free treatment, thus materially affecting the local doctor besides lowering his prestige in the estimation of the public. For ordinary diseases and for simple operations patients from all parts flock in our hospitals just to avoid paying the regular practitioner and the expenses of home nursing.

Now that the municipalities are forced to pay the shot there will be a careful enquiry into the financial standing of the applicant for admission into the public wards.

It will be no longer possible for well-to-do mechanics, salaried officials and fair wage earners to grossly impose on charity. In this new country we should strive to prevent all pauperizing tendencies. Imposition upon hospitals has been due to laxity and carelessness on the part of managers of hospitals. There has been no thorough systematic inspection of applicants seeking free treatment.

In order to show a contrast between places where there is practically no enquiry and where there is thorough inspection, let me quote Detroit with a population of 385,000 and Winnipeg with its population of 120,000.

In 1907 Detroit only paid \$13,269.50 for the maintenance of its sick poor.

At the same rate per diem (85c) the cost for Winnipeg for the same year would have been \$61,714.28. This shows the value