

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT.

ONTARIO INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

BRANTFORD, October 1st, 1899.

T. F. CHAMBERLAIN, Esq., M.D.,

Inspector.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my report for the year ending September 30th, 1899.

The session which was brought to a close on the 14th of June was, in many respects, a trying one. At its very commencement a visitation of diphtheria was the cause for some anxiety, and, of course, elaborate precautions against the spread of the disease. These included a very free use of anti-toxin, some 150 officers, domestic and pupils being inoculated, with the most satisfactory results. Only eight (all pupils) were attacked and not a single case occurred to any one submitted, before symptoms developed, to anti-toxine treatment. I am not prepared to say for how long a period the effects of the anti-toxin would remain in the system, but the above fact should certainly encourage its use by all those on whom the responsibility for the health and safety of a large number of persons, as in this instance, rests. The ameliorating influence of the remedy on cases already under medical care, in their early stage, was also very observable. The progress of the malady appeared to be almost immediately arrested after inoculation. Consequently, all our cases but one assumed a mild form. In the exceptional instance the pupil had withheld the fact from her officers that she was troubled with a sore-throat until some forty-eight hours had elapsed, and she suffered severely for her lack of prudence. The pupils, who were kept informed day by day of the course of affairs, behaved admirably, and showed no symptoms of panic or needless alarm at the presence among them of so unwelcome a visitant. It may also be noted that no inconvenient effects attended the use of the anti-toxin in any case. The Institution did not escape from the epidemic of la grippe which prostrated so many of both the old and the young during the past winter. Among the pupils its effects were not serious and a brief absence from classes only was necessary. But this occurred to a considerable number and interference with the regularity of class work was inevitable. In the latter part of December the Principal was attacked and the complaint developed into one of bronchial pneumonia, the result being his inability to take any active part in the work of the Institution for three months. He desires in mentioning, as in duty bound, the cause of so protracted a period of incapacity, to bear publicly his testimony to the admirable manner in which the acting-principal, Mr. W. B. Wickens, and the whole staff of officers co-operated in preserving discipline and effectively carrying on the daily routine of the Institution. I shall do the pupils, too, only justice in saying that their conduct indicated a desire that no needless trouble should be given to those in charge under such unusual circumstances.

Looking back over the session, and reflecting on the causes that might have perilled the efficiency of the work, I feel that the record we are able to present is one calling for thankfulness and justifying congratulation.

BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION.

In my last report I was able to refer with pleasure to the fact that instruction in the contents of the Holy Scriptures had become part of our regular daily curriculum. This had been made all the easier inasmuch as our teachers, of various religious com-