

\$200,000 to the General Hospital, and that of \$200,000 to the Western, Grace, St. Michael's and the Home for Incurables, have not yet been put into buildings, but will before long.

But in the third place, and most important of all, the hospitals have been caring for public patients for the city at a rate that entailed upon the hospitals heavy losses. Thus it was that the hospitals were helping to finance the city, and not the city the hospitals. Now that the city pays 70 cents a day and the Government 20 cents for these public ward patients the loss will not be so heavy.

The tendencies are now improving very materially. The wealthy are becoming more generous. The city has recognized in part its duty to the hospitals, both by aiding the building fund and by paying more towards maintenance account. Then, again, the hospitals are receiving more from their private ward patients. All these sources of revenue will add strength to the hospitals, and Toronto will soon be able to boast of up-to-date institutions for the care and treatment of the sick.

THE HOSPITALS OF ONTARIO.

The hospitals of a country may be regarded as one of the most important of its industries. They deal with sick and injured people and try to restore them to health and usefulness again. That this statement is not exaggerated the report of the Inspector of Hospitals amply proves. Last year in the public hospitals of Ontario no less than 46,971 patients were treated. The amount of money expended on these institutions was the very large sum of \$2,721,524.28, being an average of \$57.95 per patient. The daily cost was \$1.21.

Coming to the question of the relationship of the municipality to the hospital within its bounds, the Inspector has some very wise words to offer. "The time has come, when municipalities should be awakened to a sense of the duty they owe to the local hospitals who care for their sick poor. Hospital Boards should be given the power to collect the cost of maintenance of indigent patients from the municipality liable." With these remarks we concur. There is no reason why a municipality should send its poor into a hospital as a burden upon the funds of the hospital. This does harm in many ways, but mainly by crippling the hospital so that it cannot do the best sort of work.

The Inspector is not in favor of municipal hospitals. In this we think he is right. The hospitals managed by independent boards are more likely to receive donations from the wealthy than are those controlled by the municipality. Then, we think these institutions will be better managed and will meet the needs of all classes better. The duty