

copy from the *Toronto Leader*. In May, 1862, the number of patients in the Beauport asylum was 418; in May, 1863, it was 444; in May, 1864, the number had increased to 534, and, in September of last year, it had reached 556. Let it be remembered that the building is considered full with 400 inmates. It is true that new wings have been added to the building; but in spite of increased accommodation the crowding was deemed by one of the commissioners, Mr. Hamilton, to be "prejudicial to health, both of mind and body, from the circumstance of so large a number being huddled together."

In the name of our common humanity, we would ask how long is this state of things to be allowed to continue. If the Government are unwilling to assume the responsibility, let them so state, and give to private individuals the power of erecting an asylum to be under Government inspection. We have good reason to know that offers have been made to the Government by private individuals to build an asylum and provide the necessary accommodation for this afflicted class of persons. The bare idea of endeavouring to adapt a rejected private residence, as was proposed, a short time since, in the house of the late Mr. Harwood, or the other schemes for acquiring college buildings which have not been found to answer the purpose for which they were intended, or even making use of the barracks at St. John's is absurd in the very last degree; it is a line of conduct which lays the members of our executive open to the suspicion of a question of their own sanity, and we doubt very much whether they do not themselves deserve to have issued a commission *de lunatico inquirendo* for the purpose of deliberating on their own state of mental calibre.

If reference be made to the imperial paper on "Colonial Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums," it will be found that in temperate climates 1,000 cubic feet of breathing space are necessary for each inmate of associated wards, and that in single rooms not less than 1,500 cubic feet are necessary. It appears that not over 300 cubic feet of breathing space are allotted to the inmates of the Beauport Asylum—a state of things which precludes all hope of beneficial results from treatment; in fact, it is little superior to the black hole at Calcutta, and we have little hesitation in believing it is very little better, and accompanied by almost an equal amount of death, though not half as merciful; for, in the one instance, the death was speedy and sure, in this it becomes a lingering but equally certain result.

We write thus urgently. It is a subject which has engrossed our attention for years; and, we would ask, is there not occasion for earnest and concentrated action? The fact is apparent to every one who chooses