

care and treatment, and are doing the very best thing possible for their recovery.

The new hospital for the insane at Whitby has every facility for the housing and treatment of the mentally afflicted. It is a home, a work-house, and a hospital. There is ample accommodation of the most ideal and modern sort. The new asylum buildings and grounds are a monument to the memory of the late Hon. W. J. Hanna, and we feel that no man could wish for a finer one.

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### DOCTORS AND LIQUOR ORDERS.

From all information at our command we believe that the medical profession feel very keenly the position in which they are placed by the Ontario Temperance Act. They are made the agents for the supply of alcoholic liquors to the people, and yet, in doing so they run grave risks of being wrongly judged. Let us point out some of the difficulties that confront the doctor.

In the first place the sort of patients of different doctors differ very much. One doctor may have a rich clientele, who have their homes well stocked with liquors, while another doctor's patients are drawn mainly from the working classes, who depend upon an order from their doctors. This will have the effect of making it appear that some doctors are rather ready in giving out orders, whereas they may really be very strong upholders of the cause of temperance.

Then, again, the district in which a man practises makes a great difference. One doctor may be located in a rural district where prohibition is the prevailing feeling; while another may be in a crowded city district where bars have been the order of the past, and the people have long been educated to the use of liquor. Such persons will frequently appeal to their family physician for an order.

Then it must be borne in mind that there are widely divergent views in the profession on the usefulness of alcoholic liquors in the treatment of disease. There are able and conscientious doctors who do not believe in them at all. There are others who do in varying degrees from extreme moderation to very free use. That alcohol is a recognized therapeutic agent of value there is no room for doubting. This has been settled beyond argument.

Further, there is much difference of opinion as to the best sort of alcoholic stimulant to order. Some doctors prefer wines, others prefer malt liquors, and others some form of spirit. There is no cast iron rule