

The nature and treatment of the diseases of the mind is, beyond all doubt, the most profound and difficult department of medicine. In no specialty is it so necessary that there should be special training as in psychiatry, and yet we find men willing to undertake these very onerous duties without any special knowledge.

We believe that several eminently qualified physicians are ready to make application for the medical superintendency of the Protestant Hospital for the Insane, and we hear also that several physicians in no way qualified for the position are anxious for the appointment. It will be easy for wise and competent men to separate the eminently qualified from those entirely unfitted for the position. It will, however, be more difficult to decide who among the former will best fill the important position.

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It does not appear to be generally known that the insane of the North-West Territories are housed, not in an asylum, but in the Manitoba Penitentiary. Formerly, by an agreement with the Provincial Government of Manitoba, the care of the insane from the territories was entrusted to the Superintendent of the Manitoba Asylum at Selkirk. This arrangement, which we believe worked satisfactorily, fell through from the inability of the Dominion and Provincial Governments to come to terms as to the price to be paid by the former.

If the treatment of the insane in this Province is highly unsatisfactory, it is due to causes beyond the reach of our profession, but the case is otherwise with the insane in the North-West. A representation from the Canadian Medical Association of the injury done to the insane by their retention in a convict establishment would, we have no doubt, induce the Dominion Government to build a proper asylum in the territories or continue the arrangement previously in force.

We have had occasion repeatedly to call attention to the pernicious system of dealing with the insane in the Province of Quebec. This state of matters still continues, and there is little hope that it will ever be different until the day comes when