

ROCKWOOD ASYLUM.

In the course of last year I paid two visits to this Asylum.

So far as I have had opportunities of examining and judging, the able Medical Superintendent, Dr. Dickson, judiciously and economically administers the affairs of the institution.

The various departments of the establishment are kept in very good order, cleanliness being remarkable. The patients are well cared for. The ventilation, in the male wards especially, requires improvement.

The number of patients at the end of last year was precisely the same as on the 31st December, 1875, viz., 378.

There are 50 criminal lunatics; the sentences of 26 having expired, would leave 24 to be transferred to the Asylum now being prepared in the Penitentiary.

The works and improvements asked for in his report, by Dr. Dickson, are of pressing necessity, and cannot be much longer delayed without great inconvenience to the administration, and detriment to the property of the Asylum. The greater part of what is required to be done can be performed by convict labour, provided such labour be remunerated. The cost of the improvements urgently needed, has been estimated by Dr. Dickson at \$15,000. If convicts be employed to do the work, and the materials, such as stone and lime, be supplied by the Penitentiary, the cash expenditure will be greatly reduced. This is a matter well worthy the consideration of the Government, under whose jurisdiction the Asylum is to be ultimately placed.

The Medical Superintendent furnishes very complete statistics, carefully prepared and clearly presented.

For the reasons advanced by Dr. Dickson in his former reports, and in the one under notice, an early settlement of the question of transfer of the Asylum is an event very desirable.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PENITENTIARY.

In the Report for 1875, I noticed the marked change for the better, which even a few weeks had produced in the administration of this Penitentiary, after the present Warden had entered on his duties. I am happy at being able to state, with the experience of fourteen months' of Dr. Duchesneau's *regime* before me, that the Penitentiary, in all the details of its management, has been entirely reorganized and improved. Taking into account the condition of affairs as described in my several reports to the Department, and in previous annual Reports, the fact is clear that it was no trivial task to have brought this institution to its present state of order and proper government.

The most serious difficulty that had to be overcome was the inefficiency of the staff of officers. It was found necessary to remove several aged, incompetent, and unworthy men. Something more, I regret to say, must be done in this same direction, before the employes attain that standard required by the nature of the service.

It is but fair to state that the duties of the subordinate officers were very severe and onerous, owing to the limited number on the staff, and the frequent vacancies which have occurred last year. As a rule, the extra work was promptly and fairly performed.

Considerable inconvenience has been felt owing to the difficulty of securing the services of suitable men. The salary, hitherto, has been objected to as inadequate to induce the right stamp of applicants to fill the vacant posts. There is a prospect of this being remedied by the increase recently sanctioned in the wages of the guards.

The selection of the officers has a very important bearing, both as regards the interests of the convicts and the discipline of the institution, and the prisoners are not slow in discerning when they have got the right man. An officer with few words and few reports will maintain strict discipline, while another, frequently