

Editorials.

ASYLUM APPOINTMENTS.

Considerable interest has been taken in certain appointments recently made in the public service of Ontario. We understand the Government had a surplus of candidates for the superintendency of the Toronto Asylum for Insane, but unfortunately all had been party men in the past. Under the circumstances it was considered advisable to appoint a physician not connected with any political party. Dr. C. K. Clarke, who has paid considerable attention to the subject of insanity, was therefore appointed. An Independent newspaper of Toronto looks on the appointment with considerable favor, and tells us that "in making a non-political appointment to the Toronto Asylum the Whitney Government commits no error," and adds that "party service alone would be no qualification in the director of an asylum." And again, "so many mental diseases are either curable or may be mitigated by proper treatment, that whenever possible the knowledge of some one who has given special attention to the subject should be evoked."

Without doubt, both the Government and the Independent journal have shown in this matter considerable ingenuity and astuteness. Some of our friends, however, consider it would be quite as well to use plain English. The appointment of Dr. Clarke is not a new one. He is simply transferred from one asylum to another without the slightest change in his rank, chiefly, if not altogether, to meet the requirements of certain political exigencies.

Without discussion of the political aspect of the matter, we have every reason to believe that the removal of Dr. Clarke from Kingston to Toronto will give general satisfaction, because it is believed that he is well qualified to be the head of any asylum for insane in the world. He was born in 1857, did asylum work during all of his student days, graduated in 1878, and has been engaged at asylum work ever since.

We learn from the Toronto Independent journal that Dr.