

were very wealthy ones. He recommended that when poor patients in the last stages of the disease were taken charge of by the municipality they should be kept in an annex to a House of Industry where they could be near their friends.

### HOSPITAL FINANCING.

At the afternoon session the niggardly manner in which the Government and municipalities throughout the province support the public hospitals was the chief feature of the discussion that followed an able paper on "Hospital Finance," read by Mr. W. M. Dack, Walkerton.

Mr. Dack said that five years ago the County of Bruce started their hospital with a legacy of \$8,000. Up to the present time the Trust Board had invested \$25,000, and they had only a \$3,000 mortgage debt, and no floating liabilities.

The hospital has 27 beds for patients, and is so finely equipped and furnished that it has become the pride of the County of Bruce, whose people cheerfully contributed to its maintenance.

Other counties were not so fortunate, and the struggle to make both ends meet, and at the same time to maintain the general hospitals in a state of efficiency, was a serious problem continually before the boards of management of these institutions.

If the County Councils were compelled to make an adequate grant to the hospitals, every one would contribute his fair share, whereas, at the present time, many of the most wealthy scarcely gave a cent. To illustrate how this would work out, it was shown that the equalized assessment of Wellington was \$27,632,817, and its County Council made a grant of \$1,200 to the General, and \$1,200 to St. Joseph's—in all \$2,400. A ratepayer assessed for \$2,000 would be called upon to contribute about  $17\frac{1}{3}$  cents, or  $21\frac{1}{4}$  cents on a \$2,500 assessment. The equalized assessment of Waterloo was \$23,260,719, and its County Council made a grant of \$1,250 to the hospital in Berlin, and an equal amount to the hospital in Galt—in all \$2,500. A ratepayer would contribute  $21\frac{1}{2}$  cents on a \$2,000 assessment, or  $26\frac{3}{4}$  cents on \$2,500. The equalized assessment of Victoria was only \$13,171,522, yet its County Council made a grant of \$1,200 to the hospital in Lindsay, which had an income of \$750 from an endowment fund. A ratepayer would contribute  $18\frac{1}{4}$  cents on an assessment of \$2,000, or  $22\frac{3}{4}$  cents on \$2,500. The equalized assessment of Bruce was \$25,969,122. If Bruce County made a grant of \$1,500 for maintenance, the levy would be so small as to be scarcely noticeable.

H. H. Strathy, K.C., said hospital work is strictly benevolent and non-sectarian, and should be supported by the public for that reason.