

Quebec Lunatic Asylum.—Before 1845, lunatics were sheltered in our alms-houses and public hospitals. Virtually lost, however, amid the large number of infirm persons shut up in these houses, cases of lunacy could not receive special attention.

The marked increase in the number of lunatics suggested the idea of founding an institution specially devoted to the treatment of mental diseases. Lord Metcalf, then Governor of Canada, encouraged the project by promising the support of his government to an association of distinguished physicians, Drs. Douglas, Frémont and Morrin. He consulted with his council, and, on the 16th of September, 1845, the dwelling house, once the manor of Mr. Giffard, Seigneur of Beauport, was converted into an hospital for lunatics. At the time of its purchase this building could accommodate 120 inmates, with the necessary guardians.

Several years later, the number of patients having increased, it became necessary to acquire larger premises. The Directors accordingly purchased the magnificent property then belonging to Judge de Bonne, and, in April, 1850, a new asylum was erected on those grounds.

In February, 1854, the western wing was destroyed by fire; but no accident happened to the patients, and the damage was soon repaired.

In 1863, certain alterations were made in the central portion of the building, which was also ornamented with a cupola. Two large wings were added to the main building.

During the year 1864, a new building, specially for male patients was erected on the same grounds, the principal building being reserved for females.

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