

Canada Medical Journal.

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A LUNATIC ASYLUM.

We have not yet received a copy of the report of the Board of Inspectors of Asylums, Prisons, &c. ; but, from what we have seen in the daily press, we are convinced that this report demonstrates most fully the necessity which exists of constructing a proper building in this section of the Province, for the care and treatment of those affected with mental diseases.

It appears to us, the Government are bound either to entertain the report and act upon it with promptitude, or they must, by continued neglect of the reiterated necessity, treat the report of their commissioners with silent contempt,—a course of action which, in any other country, would bring about the resignation of the entire body of those constituting the board.

The thrice told tale of over-crowding, which has been dinned into the governmental ears, by doctors, journalists, and the entire press, comes at last from those appointed by the executive to visit and report on the sanitary and other conditions of these institutions. We say, at last, for it does seem that the necessity has become too glaring to be over-looked, even by well-paid inspectors. We speak thus strongly because it will be found, on reference to the report for the year 1863, a controversy started between one of the Board of Inspectors and Dr. Workman of the Toronto Asylum on this very subject. The doctor states that his asylum is already too full, but, in spite of his remonstrance, we find Mr. Inspector Taché recommending the addition of fifty extra beds in the asylum, which, according to Dr. Workman, is, or was at the date of his letter, July 17, 1863, "full enough, and that the beds cannot be increased without risk to the health and lives of the present inmates." How the case stands at the present date in Toronto, we are unable to say, not having seen the report. But, in reference to the Beauport Asylum, it does appear that they are in a sad state for want of space, with the expectation, or rather the daily necessity, of extra room. But to go to figures. We