

equal to asking for a cash grant of \$1,250,000. The city has already given this hospital over \$600,000. For this sum the hospital furnishes accommodation for about 300 city-order patients, although there are beds for a large number if required.

St. Michael's Hospital received from the city \$50,000, and cares for large numbers of city-order patients, and conducts an extensive outdoor department. The Toronto Western Hospital was granted by the city \$100,000, and agreed to hold ready for the city 100 beds whenever required.

Now, it would be quite unfair for the city to make an annual grant to the General Hospital and not make a similar grant to the other hospitals in proportion to the number of the city's poor cared for by each. All should be treated alike when they are doing the same work and doing it equally well. It will no doubt be carefully considered by the City Council, but it is not likely that the Council will be willing to commit the city to such large annual expenditures until the whole matter has been gone into with great care. Instead of making lump sum grants, it might be better for the city to pay the full daily cost of the externe and interne care of the city's poor. If the plan should be adopted of making a large annual grant to the General Hospital in addition to what is paid on the per diem allowance of \$1. for city patients, then there could be no escaping the logic that the same treatment must be accorded to St. Michael's, The Western and Grace Hospitals. The full study of this question may lead to some effort being made to materially reduce the cost of maintenance for city-order patients. How this could be done we do not undertake to say at present.

RADIUM, THE NEW QUACKERY.

This is the remarkable heading for the first editorial in the February issue of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. It is most strange that this line of treatment should be branded as a phase of quackery, any more than should the use of scalpel or the x-ray machine. All the world is awake to the possibilities of radium, and are investigating its powers.

That it has great powers there is no longer any doubt. One swallow does not make spring, but the cases where radium treatment has done good are now numbered by the legion. Digitalis is a valuable drug, but it does not cure all cases of heart disease. In like manner arsenic has its limitations in dermatology. No one pretends that radium can cure all sorts of neoplasms, but very many claim it can cure some and relieve others. This is a very fine eulogium to be able to pass upon any line of treatment.