

the multitude of incurables, it was never dreamed of that they should be cast upon the tender mercies of the municipal corporations, whose ideas of provision for the destitute have yet in but a few instances risen above commitment to the county gaols.

Our Government then introduced the system of Branch Asylums for incurables, which, though perhaps not the best possible, was nevertheless a step in the right direction; and it must be in a form analogous to this that our future provision shall be made. The insane can never be comfortably and satisfactorily governed and provided for under any other regimen than that which obtains in all well-ordered and efficient *curative* institutions; and this regimen, I feel convinced, cannot be perpetuated in full integrity in establishments organized and conducted on almshouse principles. Affiliation with the parent institutions, from which the patients have been sent, should never be broken up. The same system of domestic management, the same system of mild and judicious though firm control, the same generous bodily support, the same general and strict cleanliness, and the same personal comfort in clothing, by night and day, should be perpetuated.

Is it possible to secure all this at a less expense, and to provide for a larger number, than under our present system?

It appears to me that *three Curative Asylums*, for the treatment of recent cases of insanity, are, in the first place, indispensable. Two already exist, one at Toronto, and the second at Kingston, both of which are capable of becoming first-class establishments of this sort. A third might be erected at London, as the most central and convenient point for the western counties, and a locality in every way well suited to such an institution.

These three Curative Asylums should be appropriated to the reception and treatment of recent acute cases, and, secondly, of those chronic cases of a dangerous and violent character, which, though not likely to be cured, may nevertheless be improved by the discipline of a curative asylum, and brought into such a condition of quietude and subordination as to fit them for residence in a less expensive institution. Indeed, it is my impression that, if possible, every case of insanity requiring asylum lodgment should be sent for a certain term to a curative institution, as the