

THE TREATMENT OF INEBRIATES IN ONTARIO.

The proposed legislation for the treatment of inebriates in Canada, which was outlined in the JOURNAL last year and laid over by the Ontario Government, is coming up again this year, and will doubtless become law. All the large Medical Associations in Canada, also the Prisoners' Aid Association have endorsed its provisions and urged it to be passed.

The bill, in brief, provides for the following: "(1) Placing all cases of drunkenness, except the confirmed jail 'rounder,' experimentally on probation on suspended sentence, and under the supervision of a probation officer. (2) Imposing a fine and permitting the fine to be paid by instalments to the probation officer. (3) In cases in which the inebriety has become a disease, the probation officer be given authority to place the dipsomaniac for a few weeks' treatment in a cottage hospital, or in an inebriate department in a general hospital. (4) The cost of treatment to be considered as a loan, to be repaid after treatment and while still on probation. (5) Cases of able-bodied inebriates, not reformed or not reformable by these simple and inexpensive methods, to be sentenced to prison on cumulative sentences. (6) Old and feeble confirmed inebriates to be provided for in county or city poorhouses. (7) A special per capita Government grant made to hospitals to promote the treatment of dipsomaniacs. (8) A medical officer appointed by Government to organize inebriate wards in general hospitals, and special cottage hospitals for the treatment of dipsomaniacs in Ontario where such hospitals are necessary, to provide for and supervise the medical treatment in said hospitals, and also to provide for home medical treatment for probationers in proper cases. (9) Three physicians of standing in the province to be appointed as a committee of consultation to co-operate (without salary) with the medical officer."—*From the "Quarterly Journal of Inebriety," October, 1902.*

This bill is practical and is evidently the result of a very thorough study of the inebriate, particularly of the means and measures found valuable in the care and treatment. This law will be no experiment. It has been tested in many of its provisions and found to be practical. While the general plan is new, it outlines the experience and conclusions of a large number of observers, and its success is simply a question of the men to carry out its provisions. The measure will practically solve some of the great temperance problems upon which so wide a division of opinion exists. The army of inebriates is increasing and the burdens from their presence in every community are becoming heavier; hence all students will welcome this new measure as the application of more exact measures and claims