

Editorials.

THE CARE OF LUNATICS AND INEBRIATES.

It is a sad if not a disgraceful thing to have an unfortunate lunatic confined in a common gaol. A large deputation from the Prisoners' Aid Association had an interview with the Hon. G. W. Ross and Hon. E. J. Davis during the past summer, and gave expression to certain opinions on the treatment of lunatics and inebriates. It was stated that there were 208 prisoners in the Toronto Gaol on February 16th; and of these, 30 were vagrants, 28 were lunatics, while 35 were incarcerated for drunkenness. The whole number far exceeded the normal capacity of the gaol, and prevented a proper classification of the prisoners. It was recommended that all the insane, or at least those who have been in gaol over two months, be removed to an asylum, and that those who were imprisoned for drunkenness be sent to a reformatory, a special hospital, or a special department of a general hospital, where they could receive scientific treatment.

Dr. Oldright, speaking on behalf of the Inebriety Committee of the Ontario Medical Association, said that inebriates, or at least a certain proportion of them, require special treatment almost, if not quite, as much as the insane. In the same connection he referred to the Massachusetts Hospital for Inebriates—a State institution, where over 42 per cent. of those discharged are reformed. Dr. Roe, of Georgetown, and several laymen spoke in the same strain.

It is of course unnecessary to add any arguments to those already brought forward, or even to say anything special in the way of supporting them, because the profession of the Province, probably without exception, fully agree with the views expressed at the meeting. The chief point of interest now is to learn the views of the Government on the subject. We believe the members of the delegation were well pleased with the replies of the ministers.

The Hon. Mr. Davis admitted that the insane were detained in gaol longer than they should be, but that the condition in that respect would be improved when the new addition to the