

Dufferin Public School and of the lecture rooms of the Toronto Normal School, where artificial ventilation has been recently installed by the Fred. Armstrong Co., Toronto; and the contrast between the lecture rooms of the old Medical Building of the University, when feeble artificial ventilation was employed, and those of the new Medical Building. Please do not refer to one or two occasions in summer, as at the first meeting there of the Ontario Medical Association, when either fan or deflector was not in evidence.

I have visited hospitals in other places where artificial means were in use for removing foul air and bringing in pure warmed air. Some of these must have been visited by the gentlemen who made the tour of investigation.

With regard to this matter it must also be borne in mind that what will be suitable in climates far to the south of us may be unsuitable in ours; even when elaborate devices for breaking up and deflecting incoming currents of cold air are in use.

WM. OLDRIGHT.

ASYLUM REFORM.

TO THE EDITOR CANADIAN PRACTITIONER AND REVIEW:

SIR:—To say anything new on the subject of the appointment of superintendents in Ontario asylums seems almost impossible, but the question is of such vital importance that it merits more than mere passing notice.

In the first place it is to be remembered that vacant superintendencies in the asylum service are at the present time (much to Ontario's discredit)—“spoils of war,” placed in the hands of the patronage committees to be dispensed to the politician who is most assiduous in his application. All other appointments in the service are mainly to junior positions. Young physicians entering as assistant medical officers gradually work up to the position of assistant superintendents, where, thanks to the present system, they usually remain.

Doesn't it seem incredible that the Province of Ontario (*because the people pay for the maintenance of the indigent insane*), when a man is required to assume the chief position in a large institution where hundreds of the unfortunate insane are receiving care and treatment, should appoint some one who has had no special training whatever in a branch which is one of the most complex in the realm of medical science. Instead, the appointee is, as a rule, a man to whom