

rheumatism, which was induced by exposure during one of his necessary frequent duties to the city. I am glad to say that he is again restored to health.

I am able to report a fair measure of success in the treatment of the insane, as shown by the number discharged from the asylum during the year. But as this unfortunate class of our people is increasing so rapidly, I would recommend the building of an asylum in the North-West Territory, with an accommodation for at least 100 patients, and so planned that the requirements of the future with an ever-increasing population could be anticipated. In the selection of a site it would be well to keep in view the great importance of good drainage, pleasant natural surroundings and a locality central and easy of access to the people of the Territories generally. It is only when those advantages are available that the exercise of the patience and skill so essential in the management of an asylum is rewarded by gratifying results.

Much trouble has been experienced in hospital owing to the defective plumbing in water pipes. As attention is now being given to the whole system, I am hopeful that the cause of trouble will be removed.

Hose and reels have been placed in hospital, connections made with water supply, and we are now, as far as it is possible to be, protected against fire.

The new cottages for the chaplains' and surgeon's use were completed and occupied during the year, and I am pleased to say they are very comfortable buildings. I may say, however, that the drains from those cottages were frozen early in February, which occasioned much time and labour to have them again put in working order.

I desire to draw your attention to the inefficiency of baths, closets and urinals for convicts. This is a complaint that I have frequently made to the Warden, and I understand that he submitted a proposition to the Department having in view the remedying of the evil complained of. I would now suggest that a large tiled plunge bath be constructed in the basement of the proposed addition. Convicts coming in at locking-up, from such labours as the field, paint shop, blacksmith shop, &c., where they must of necessity become dirty, would be given an opportunity of a thorough washing before going to the cells. A plunge bath large enough to accommodate, say twelve convicts, would meet the requirements, and save both time and supervision. This, for the comfort and cleanliness of convicts as well as for sanitary reasons, is desirable. I certainly fear the consequence of delay in making better arrangements regarding baths, closets and urinals, and I would urge immediate attention to those matters.

As our system of receiving and discharging convicts might be adopted with advantage by other penitentiaries, I shall take the liberty of explaining the method. On entering the prison the convict is bathed, shaved, and has his hair cut under the direction of the Steward. He is then dressed in prison clothes and assigned a number, by which he is afterwards known, his name being entirely lost sight of, except upon the prison records. His medical examination follows, which is minute in all its details, his height, weight, muscular development, freedom from contagious disease, capacity for work, &c., being carefully noted on return called "Medical Examination Sheet." This return is placed before the Warden, who sends for the convict and subjects him to a searching examination, by which he is enabled to form an opinion regarding the convict's social, moral and physical condition. By this process facts are elicited which enables the Warden to assign the labour for which the convict is best adapted, and which consequently will be of most value to the institution. In point of efficiency, I have seen nothing, either in England or on this continent, to compare with this method, and I would strongly advise its adoption by the penitentiaries of Canada. Before the convict is discharged he is again subjected to another medical examination, when his weight and general condition is noted on the same return that was used at the time of his reception. From those records it can be easily ascertained at any time what effect confinement has had upon any convict, and such records are especially useful in the case of recidivists.

As I have never heretofore referred to my inspections, which occur regularly every Saturday, I shall take the liberty of referring to them here. On my entering