

which are so vitally important to the welfare of afflicted ones? Would the people of this Province condemn any Government for exhibiting 'commendable hurry' in dealing with 'so important a question'? It is sufficient to make a moral and a just man gnash his teeth for very rage at the despicable laxity and dilatoriness manifested on the part of governments in dealing with these afflicted ones. Surely the finances of this Province are sufficient, and if not we are satisfied that the people of this Province will eagerly and willingly submit to taxation for this purpose—to immediately acquire the necessary accommodation, and hereafter keep on acquiring ample accommodation, so that this foul blot may be forever removed from Ontario's escutcheon. It may be true that Ontario is not the only sinner along these lines. However that may be, she can be in the van to remedy the evil. She can prove if need be to the world that she is able to grasp and cope with this much vexed question, and that she is not pursuing a vacillating and lackadaisical policy with regard to her unfortunate poor lunatics. A class of the community who ought to be the very first to excite our compassion are treated in a contemptible manner, far worse than the most sordid criminal; and yet the wealth of the land cannot buy peace and comfort for those who have been blighted. Their wrongs should be speedily rectified. Their friends should be accorded some consideration.

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### A TAXING-OFFICER IN MEDICINE.

One of the severest difficulties which at once confronts the beginner in the practice of medicine now-a-days in this Province is that of knowing what to charge for his services. Since the law, rule, or regulation of the Medical Council, which was at one time in vogue, but which has since lapsed, become defunct or rescinded, was in operation, there has been no method or rule in the matter of charges. What do we find as a result of this? That everyone makes his own charges at whatever rate he wishes; and that the condition of affairs has now reached the point that the patient in many cases has the presumption, audacity or nerve, or whatever you wish to call it, to fix the practitioner's fee himself. It has almost become to be the rule, "Take what you can get." This certainly is lamentable. Prior to the time when the tariff of charges ceased to have any existence, the older men had their scale of charges to go by and be guided by, and to point to and refer the patient to when a kick was registered; and of course, having thus obtained a good and just knowledge of what