

tinware supplies for the Mercer and other Public Institutions. All these departments are carried on by prison labour.

Mercer Reformatory and Girls' Refuge.

The inmates of the Mercer Reformatory are employed in laundry work on a large scale, which is all done by hand. Here is also done the making of undergarments etc., for the inmates, and for the Central Prison. The stockings for the inmates, and socks and mittens for the trade are produced in the knitting department.

In the Refuge for Girls the surroundings are made as pleasant as conditions will permit and a competent staff of teachers is employed to give instruction in general English branches, in plain and fancy sewing and in a full course of Domestic Science and Household Economics.

Public Institutions of Ontario.

Perhaps there is no country that exercises so much solicitude for the unfortunate, afflicted and dependent of its population, or makes more liberal and wisely directed expenditure in their care than the Province of Ontario. We have Asylums for those with minds diseased, Hospitals connected therewith specially equipped for those with physical ailments, Refuges for the destitute and Reformatories for the morally deformed. All these are maintained by the Province without a cent of direct taxation. We have no direct taxation in this Province for these purposes. There is no charge upon the Municipalities in respect of them.

revenue for Succession Duties, which is devoted as far as it goes, about \$200,000 per year to the maintenance of our Public Institutions bears only upon the very wealthy and well-to-do.

We maintain eight Asylums for the shelter, care and treatment of the insane, and the public at large have little idea of the extent and nature of the work done in these institutions. It is to be remembered that in eight large buildings with acres of floor space and miles of corridors there are housed and cared for a

population of about 5,000 demented persons, equal to the inhabitants of a large town; a population of every conceivable type of delusion, demanding special treatment and unceasing vigilance in supervision. These are to be sheltered, clothed, fed and given such treatment as the individual cases require. The matter of the purchase of supplies sufficient and no more is no small responsibility. Under authority of the detailed appropriations made by the Legislature, quarterly requisitions for supplies are forwarded to the Department, carefully investigated and, if approved, returned to the respective institutions with authority to purchase from time to time such supplies as needed. Supplies purchased under these conditions are deposited in store and distribution is made from the stores only on requisition of the head matron, endorsed by the superintendent. In addition to the storeskeeper's receipt for supplies deposited with him, every article of supply is recorded when it enters the store, and every issue also recorded, so that the returns made to the Department indicate the exact condition of the stores. The record of receipts and issues of the storeskeeper, the returns of such issues made to the Department, and the quantity remaining of the supplies covered by the receipts of the storeskeeper, must exactly correspond. Every effort is made to keep down the expenditure to the lowest possible point consistent with efficiency, and it is, besides, the policy of the Government both from motives of economy as well as for the benefit of patients to provide productive employment.

Employment for Patients.

Popular ideas in regard to the insane are not always in line with the real conditions. There are degrees and forms of insanity in which the line of demarcation between reason and insanity is very lightly defined. There are monomaniacs whose minds are as sound in all other subjects except that of their special delusion and who can talk and converse as rationally and as collectedly on any