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THE RELATION OF THE GENERAL HOSPITAL TO THE COMMUNITY.

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The question of hospital extension has now become so general that before long every large Canadian town will have its own local institution for the care of the sick. It is only one hundred and fifty-seven years since the first hospital in America opened its doors. At that time only a few hospitals existed in the principal cities of England and continental Europe. Fifty years ago there were only eleven hospitals within the present boundaries of Canada; while to-day there are 151 institutions. Twenty-five years ago there were seven hospitals in the province of Ontario; to-day we have seventy-three general public hospitals with a total expenditure for maintenance during the past year of \$1,240,000. When we think of the growth in the work and note the progress that has been made and that largely through the sacrificing efforts of the medical profession, we may well consider the question of the relation which the hospital bears to the community and the improvements which may be worthy of earnest consideration and seem most likely to make the hospitals of Canada models in the National features that we possess.

The questions which naturally arise in establishing a hospital are as to what plan of construction is to be followed and what classes of patients are to be admitted. The time for this paper renders it impossible to dwell at any length on the importance of proper planning and construction. No branch of