

ported by the State, others by individual subscription. In both cases a rigid supervision is usually maintained over the management. And properly so, for in all public institutions, laxity in the performance of duties, and positive ill practices on the part of the different parties connected with their working, are too apt to occur. Abuses will sometimes creep in, requiring the purifying process of a special investigation, ere they can be got rid of. The promptitude with which the authorities appoint commissions of enquiry, whenever serious charges are brought against the general management of a public hospital, is a pleasing evidence that public opinion on this subject is sound and healthy. And so favorable to a community do we consider this feeling, springing, as we believe it does, from an anxious desire that all attention be paid to our suffering fellow-men, we would rather see an over-sensitiveness existent than otherwise.

Two investigations have now been held on the affairs of the Marine and Emigrant Hospital. The former enquiry had reference, more particularly, to charges of immorality, which were brought against certain subordinates of the hospital, who, being found guilty, were immediately discharged. Counter-charges of a similar nature were, at the same time, trumped up against the resident medical officers, from which they were most honorably acquitted.

The latter enquiry was more comprehensive in its character. The appointed commissioners, Drs. Wolfred Nelson and R. L. MacDonnell, and Zephirin Perrault, Esq., advocate, were instructed to report "generally upon the internal management of the hospital, with a view to suggest a remedy to any abuses or irregularities" which might be found to have previously existed therein. In compliance with their received instructions, the commissioners met at Quebec, and proceeded to investigate the entire working of the institution; and by the authority vested in them, summoned before them a number of witnesses, whom they examined, as to the truth or falsehood of charges brought against certain members of the medical staff. A voluminous "Report," of 124 pages, has been the result. They report that the hospital is most miserably situated—the ground on which it is erected having an elevation of only a few inches above the level of the river at high water, thus rendering the emptying of the sewers almost impossible. Marshes surround it on every side, the emanations from which must have a deleterious effect on the health of the unfortunate inmates. The building, although comparatively new, has a decayed appearance, and requires extensive repairs. They strongly recommend, therefore, that the present hospital, and ground attached, be sold immediately, and another building erected on a more salubrious site. We think there can be but one opinion among the profession, as to the importance of this recommendation. A structure enveloped in miasmatic vapors, and exposed to the pestiferous emana-