

## REPORT OF THE PHYSICIAN.

TO J. W. LANGMUIR, ESQ.,  
*Inspector of Prisons, Asylums, &c.,*  
*for the Province of Ontario.*

SIR,—I have the honour to report to you that the year has passed without the appearance of disease in any epidemic form in this Institution, and that the cases of severe illness have been limited to a small number. Four adult pupils on the female side were laid aside during the winter by a long tedious illness, which must have tried the patience as well as the endurance of their excellent nurse, Miss Hudson. Two of this number had continued fever, unmarked by the characteristic symptoms of typhoid and in both cases the disease was followed by such sequelae as pleurisy, bronchitis, and subacute rheumatism. All these pupils had inherited bad constitutions, and you will remember that at one of your visits I pointed out one of the number, as in my opinion too delicate a person to bear the sedentary life and application to study, incident to a residence in the Institution. I hope for the privilege of excluding all such applicants for admission hereafter.

As a precaution against the introduction of that loathsome disease, small-pox, it was deemed prudent to give the pupils the benefit of the protection which vaccination affords, and accordingly I vaccinated during the last term a majority of the pupils, especially those found without the characteristic mark of previous vaccination upon the arm. In nearly all the cases of primary vaccination, the operation was successful, while re-vaccination generally failed, thus adding proof to the truth of the medical maxim that "vaccination is an absolute protection to the majority."

The ventilation of the rooms was improved during the year by making communicating openings into the hitherto unused ventilators in the walls beside the chimneys, but these openings are so small to permit that continual renewal of the air so necessary to efficient ventilation. Finding the air impure in the class-rooms, I recommended that a sufficient fire be kept in the grates to produce a current to remove the lower stratum of carbonized air continuously, but the recommendation was overruled on the ground 1st. of the additional expense, and 2nd. the risk of fire, but I hope these objections may yet be overcome.

In my second Annual Report I spoke of the unsatisfactory state of the closets inside the building, and an accident by the freezing of a pipe last winter, was the cause of much uneasiness both to the Principal and myself, and as the result of several consultations between us, I refer you to the recommendations contained in the Principal's Report in respect to them.

The food provided has been sufficiently abundant, varied and of wholesome quality, and the general dietary therefore satisfactory.

As we were congratulating ourselves near the close of last term that no deaths had taken place in our midst, one of the pupils, Charles Cudhie, was taken ill with inflammation of the right lung. For nine days the disease progressed favourably, but on the tenth day new and serious symptoms manifested themselves, and a careful examination of the chest revealed commencing inflammation of the remaining lung, which ran its course with a rapidity and intensity I have never before witnessed; and, in spite of the free use of stimulants, stimulating expectorants, quinine, counter-irritation, &c., he quickly succumbed to his disease.

My thanks are due to the Principal in procuring for my use a pocket-case of surgical instruments, also a pair of universal tooth-forceps, two ear specula, a tongue depressor, a rubber syringe for spraying the throat, and a Politzer Bag for the treatment of deafness. These instruments were a necessity because of their daily use, and I may here remark that while the Institution is essentially educational in its design and object, it is also of necessity partly an infirmary, where the diseases of the eyes and other chronic ailments to which these children of misfortune are subject may receive medical treatment. For this reason I look forward with satisfaction to the completion of the one wing now building and the

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