

THE MALE AND FEMALE RECEPTION HOSPITALS, WITH THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IN THE CENTRE, HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, WHITBY, ONT. JAMES GOVAN, ARCHITECT.

Hospital for Insane, Whitby, Ontario

A Notable Achievement in Hospital Construction and Equipment.

THE opening of part of the new Hospital for Insane at Whitby marks a very decided change in the type of hospital devoted to the care of the mentally sick in this country. The modern hospital for the mentally afflicted differs from the asylum of a decade ago quite as much as the present day reformatory contrasts with the penitentiary of a few years back. The public generally is not so well aware of this fact as it should be. The same advanced thought which resulted in the creation at the Provincial Reformatory, Guelph, of an institution which marks the Province of Ontario as standing at the head in penological reform, is in evidence in the design and construction of this new hospital.

The Hon. W. J. Hanna, Provincial Secretary, under whose regime both of these large undertakings have been evolved, is to-day being congratulated by all those who have had an opportunity of visiting the Whitby institution, and who are qualified to express an opinion, upon having duplicated the success of his Guelph achievement.

In its handling of this great question of treatment of those who have hitherto been looked upon as Pariahs, but who are now more and more beginning to be thought of as mentally sick—to differentiate from the bodily sick—the Province of Ontario is gradually developing the hospitalization of its institutions in a way which does not seem to be bettered, either on this continent or in Europe, at the present time.

A review of the work of this kind done in Europe reveals the fact that in the planning of their so-called asylums, the architects have been influenced very largely by the adoption of the village system in Germany,

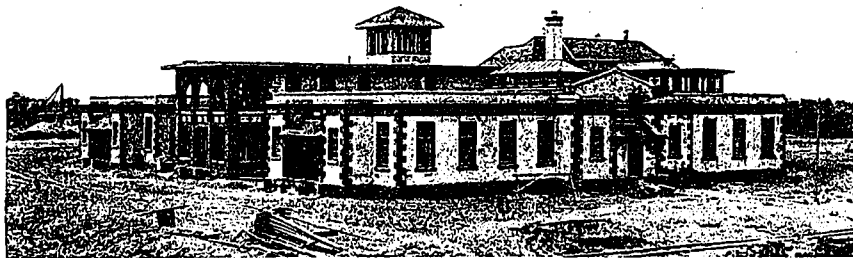
which had its beginning at Alt-Scherbitz, in Saxony. The idea of the village type of mental hospital has also spread to the United States, and to some extent it has affected the work done at some of our Canadian institutions. Although the declaration of war was yet more than two years off when the first studies of the Whitby Hospital were made, the prevalent worship of German ideas and methods did not blind those responsible for the scheme to the very glaring defects which were evidently being ignored by those who were so slavishly following German practice.

Several of the physicians engaged in this work at the Ontario institutions who had visited the best German hospitals, were disappointed to find conditions there not as ideal in some respects as they had hoped to see.

While laboratory work occupied a very high place, the consensus of opinion was that the welfare of the patients seemed to be secondary to the opportunities for study and research afforded the doctors in charge. While it was true that much admirable scientific work was being done for the patients who were looked upon as being special hospital cases, many of the patients were neglected and relegated to separate buildings for so-called chronics, where there was an entire absence of the nursing and care which distinguish all branches of the work as now carried out in this Province.

A careful study of the plans of nearly all the German asylums reveals further that the tremendously important problem of planning for

sunlight in all buildings housing patients has been neglected there, and by those who have been following German examples, in a way that is almost unbelievable.



KITCHEN AND DINING ROOMS FOR THE WOMEN'S COTTAGE CENTRE.