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SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF PRISONS AND PUBLIC CHARITIES

UPON THE

ONTARIO INSTITUTION

FOR THE

Education and Instruction of the Blind,

BRANTFORD,

BEING FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1887.

Printed by Order of the Legislative Assembly.



Toronto:

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1888.

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INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

SIXTEENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

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FOR THE

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,

Toronto, October, 1887.

*To the Honourable SIR ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, Lieutenant-Governor of the
Province of Ontario.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:—

I beg to submit herewith the Sixteenth Annual Report upon the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Blind, Brantford, being for the official year ending 30th September, 1887.

I have the honour to be,

Your Honour's most obedient servant,

R. CHRISTIE,

INSPECTOR.

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ONTARIO INSTITUTION
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The reports of the Principal, the Trades Instructor, and Surgeon, which are herewith submitted, so fully record the history of this Institution for the past year that extended reference to the work accomplished is rendered unnecessary.

During the protracted time in which cases of diphtheria appeared in the Institution, the attention of the Official Staff was necessarily and rightly devoted to the care of the afflicted and to the carrying out of the means adopted to stay the spread of the disease. Although the circumstances were such as greatly to interfere with the ordinary routine of instruction, and training in industrial work, yet the session was not a fruitless one, and there is good evidence that substantial progress was made by many of the pupils during the term.

The faithful and energetic manner in which it was observed that nearly all of the officials discharged their duties during the prevalence of the disease, was most exemplary and will no doubt have the effect of increasing confidence in regard to the treatment and care of pupils committed to the charge of the Institution.

The following are my notes of inspection made during the year under report:—

INSPECTIONS.

Copies of my minutes are appended:—

"I made an inspection of this Institution on the 7th June.

"Preparations were being made on that day for the return of the pupils to their homes at the close of the session, and this occasioned a certain amount of bustle and activity; but everything was being carried on in a regular and systematic manner, without any confusion.

"There were in attendance at the close of the session 135 pupils—80 males and 55 females—and all were in good health.

"The usual public examinations were dispensed with this session, owing to the outbreak of diphtheria among the pupils on their re-assembling, and the routine work was much retarded during its prevalence. Notwithstanding this untoward circumstance, however, the progress of the classes was very satisfactory, their proficiency having been well tested by the officers and teachers of the Institution. This record will materially assist in the re-classification of those who may enter again next session, and will also be of value for future reference.

"Internally the building was in excellent condition, due largely to the thorough renovation in the way of painting and kalsomining which it underwent after the disappearance of the disease.

"The Engineer and his assistant have been engaged in fitting up the material for heating the sections of the building not yet supplied with appliances under the improved system, and the work is so far advanced that little will have to be done besides putting it in place, when the pupils have left the building for the vacation term. The saving to be effected in fuel, if in proportion to that already accomplished, will be very considerable, and will be greater each year than the expenditure for the work.

"The renewal of the roof, for which an appropriation has been made under the Public Works Department, will be proceeded with at an early day and will be completed before the re-assembling of the pupils on the second Wednesday in September.

"The original roof has become entirely worthless, and the present outlay is necessary to preserve the interior and walls of the centre building.

"The crops are in a promising condition. The grounds presented a neat and tidy appearance, and the premises generally were found to be in a very satisfactory state."

"I made an inspection of the Institution for the Blind on the 19th of October, and found that there were 128 pupils in attendance, 77 males and 51 females. Others who have been pupils during former sessions have again been awarded admission, and their return will make the number on the roll equal to the average of the past year.

"With one exception the pupils were all in good health, and the ailing one was not indisposed from a serious cause.

"The arrangement and classification of the pupils appeared to be very satisfactory, and made with due regard to their advancement and ability to acquire knowledge in the several branches taught in the Institution.

"The routine work of the Institution was also well systematized, and the teachers and officers generally were giving evidence of strict attention to their various duties. With such favourable conditions and good health prevailing, the hope may well be entertained that the work of the session will shew excellent results.

"The internal improvements which have been made, largely during vacation term, and rendered necessary in consequence of the prevalence of diphtheria during the former session, have added much to the appearance of the building. Every apartment has been kalsomined, painted, or varnished where required. The plumbing, also, has been refitted, and rearranged, where it was thought most necessary to secure the best sanitary conditions.

"The work of changing the system of steam-heating was found to be nearly completed, and so far as it could be tested shewed very satisfactory results. This rearrangement has been in progress for a year past with the view of securing the complete radiation of steam throughout the building at comparatively low pressure.

"The work has been wholly superintended, and largely done by the Institution Engineer, and credit is due to him for the good workmanship and success of the undertaking.

"By the reconstruction, the use of six stoves will be dispensed with, the temperature of the whole building kept uniform, and the saving in fuel in a very short time will be equal to the whole cost of material required to make the alterations. In consequence of the larger area of steam piping now used, it was

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represented that another Nason steam-trap would materially add to the efficiency and economy of the system, and authority was given to purchase the required trap at a cost of \$58.

"The new slate roof which has been put on the building during the summer, under the supervision of the Public Works Department, appears to be well constructed, and is a great improvement to the building, both in appearance and safety in the event of fire.

"A new boiler at the pumping house has been put in to replace the original one, which from constant use had begun to show defects that might have rendered it unsafe at any time."

"Considerable progress has been made in getting the property lately purchased into shape, and the grounds nearest the city have also been considerably improved. The crops have been below the average of former years. The yield of potatoes, especially, shews a large reduction, in consequence of the drouth which prevailed during the summer months."

MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURES.

The amount expended in maintaining the Institution during the past twelve months is shown in the subjoined statement. The same information as regards the previous year is also given:—

SERVICES.	YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1886.		YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1887.	
	Total Expenditure.	Annual cost per pupil.	Total Expenditure.	Annual cost per pupil.
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Salaries and wages	15,658 56	118 63	15,848 33	119 16
Medicine and medical comforts	87 34	66	228 39	1 72
Butchers' meat, fish, etc.	2,982 06	22 59	2,773 53	20 85
Flour, bread, etc.	888 68	6 73	737 48	5 54
Butter and lard	966 13	7 32	379 96	7 37
General groceries	1,863 58	14 12	1,842 71	13 85
Fruit and vegetables	308 80	2 34	306 82	2 31
Bedding, clothing and shoes	660 05	5 00	510 49	3 84
Fuel	2,951 30	22 36	2,342 91	17 62
Light	963 50	7 30	1,004 55	7 55
Laundry, soap and cleaning	346 69	2 63	376 14	2 83
Furniture and furnishings	494 05	3 74	670 74	5 04
Farm, feed and fodder	886 86	6 79	1,028 13	7 72
Repairs and alterations	896 54	6 79	937 41	7 05
Advertising, printing, postage, etc.	675 19	5 11	739 67	5 56
Books, apparatus and appliances	718 32	5 44	1,040 26	7 82
Miscellaneous	1,218 08	9 23	1,519 80	11 48
Total	32,574 73	246 78	32,887 94	247 27

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT.

ROBERT CHRISTIE Esq.,

Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities:

SIR,—I have once more the honour, as Principal of this Institution, to submit my annual report for your consideration.

The enrolment of pupils during the past session showed a total of 142, or one more than in 1885-6. Of these 83 were males and 59 females.

The pupils in attendance on the 30th September, 1887, numbered 127, 5 less than at the corresponding date last year. Of these, 113—66 males and 47 females—were on the register during the session of 1886-7, leaving 29 to be accounted for as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Graduated in Industrial Branches.....	1	3	4
“ “ Piano Tuning	2	0	2
Left owing to improved vision.....	1	1	2
“ “ poor health.....	0	1	1
Excluded on account of imbecility.....	3	0	3
“ “ “ physical incapacity	1	0	1
Died in the Institution.....	1	1	2
Removed or detained at home (no causes assigned) ..	4	2	6
Detained temporarily at home (causes explained)	4	3	7
Excluded for cause	0	1	1
Total.....	17	12	29

Of new pupils there have been admitted 9 males and 2 females, while 3 former pupils—2 males and 1 female—who were not on the register last session have been re-admitted, making 14 in all to add to the old list, and showing, as above, 127 in residence at the close of the official year. The average attendance for the late session was 133. My estimate made a year ago that, if no disturbing causes intervened, the average would approximate to 140, would undoubtedly have proved correct but for the painful epidemic visitation which unsettled all our plans and calculations and to which reference will be made further on. There is every reason to believe that, of the pupils referred to as temporarily absent six will return very shortly, which will bring up our numbers to 133, or equal to last year's average. Other new pupils will no doubt, as in past years, join us as the session advances.

The respective ages of the eleven new arrivals are as under:—

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.
5.....	1	0	1
6.....	2	0	2
7.....	1	1	2
8.....	1	0	1
10.....	0	1	1
11.....	1	0	1
22.....	0	1	1
26.....	1	0	1
40.....	1	0	1
Total.....	8	3	11

The boy of 5 is an intelligent little fellow, whose motherless condition appealed strongly for a liberal construction of the rules in his favour. The pupil last on the list has long passed the age at which it is usually deemed desirable even to listen to applications, but the fact that the applicant in this case had been prevented by causes for which

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he was not responsible, from availing himself of an offer of admission several years earlier, gave him a claim to special consideration. An irreproachable personal character also greatly strengthened his appeal.

In the course of a few weeks our male pupil population will almost certainly number 80 and the females 53. In other words we shall have all the male pupils we can conveniently accommodate, and within 7 of the number it is possible to find room for on the female side. That there will always be a disparity in the numbers of the male and female pupils is to be expected. The chief reason for this is the greater liability to personal injuries of boys and young men. Not a few of these are compelled to resort to this Institution owing to accidents resulting from mining explosions, gun shot wounds and other casualties incidental to dangerous avocations and pursuits. The reluctance to place a female child in the care of strangers has also something to do with the difference in numbers. But parental weakness and ignorance are not exhibited alone in the case of blind female children. The Institution has now been established 15 years; it has been pretty well advertised by the agency of the press, the dispersion of ex-pupils and the personal canvass of the officers. There are not, I imagine, many cases of blindness, unless of very recent date, with which we are unacquainted. But I should to-day have to be pretty strongly urging an early extension of our buildings if all who are known to us to be eligible, and whose immediate admission would be desirable, were to respond to our invitations. It is perhaps natural that more hesitation should be felt in parting with a blind than with a seeing child, but certainly the necessity of such a step is overwhelmingly greater in the case of the former than of the latter. Some people seem to think that because a blind boy or girl, who becomes familiar by long association with home objects and surroundings, can potter about the house and premises and do a few little odd jobs here and there, all has been gained that is necessary, but that is not education nor the extent of even a blind person's usefulness. Parents who have wisely overcome all such notions and sent their children to the Institution are astonished when they visit them to see how much more can be done for them than they had ever dreamed of. To detain the blind child at home after it has attained the proper age for admission is most cruel kindness, and as unjust to the child as to society. Our pupils do not lose their fondness for home or suffer any diminution of filial affection by being placed under our care. On the contrary, they look forward to the holidays with all the more delight as a change from the routine of school life, but they return gladly when they have once learned how much happiness is to be found in the acquisition of knowledge, the association with other young people, and the enjoyment of the ample means provided for their recreation and improvement.

THE STAFF.

The retirement from the literary staff of Miss Mary A. Walsh, who had been nearly six years a most valued and highly esteemed officer of the Institution, created a vacancy in the department. Mr. Wickens, our senior master, having become non-resident, it has been deemed well to secure a resident male teacher in Miss Walsh's place, and Mr. Jno. D. Alexander has been appointed to that position. The resignation, from ill health of Mr. E. H. Knight, senior music teacher, after a very few months' occupancy of his situation, took place before the late session had come to an end. Mr. E. H. Williams, who, like his predecessor, is a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, and comes to us with the highest testimonials as to his abilities, has succeeded Mr. Knight. Miss McNish, junior music teacher, having also resigned after several years of most useful service, it has been found possible, by a re-arrangement of the classes, to maintain their efficiency without making, for the present, a fresh appointment. Miss Kate Burke, a pupil of more than ordinary ability, and whose conduct and bearing has been such as to inspire much confidence, having graduated in the literary and industrial branches, has been appointed assistant to the ladies respectively presiding over the sewing and knitting classes. The past session was one that severely taxed the energies of the whole staff to an extent far greater than is involved in the discharge of ordinary duties, and I have gratefully to acknowledge the kind assistance and support received from my colleagues during a long period of most painful and distressing responsibility.

THE LITERARY CLASSES.

Owing to the disturbed condition of the Institution during the first half of the late session and the protracted recess from Christmas to early in February, it was not reasonable to expect that the usual standard of literary progress would have been attained when the session should have drawn to its close. Even in the same class pupils had attended for different periods, and thus were unequally matched with one another. Under these circumstances it was considered best to dispense with the usual annual examinations by specially appointed examiners. I did not recommend this course without much regret, for the visit of the gentlemen usually deputed to discharge this duty is always a pleasant episode in the session's history. And, while the examinations are only to a very limited extent competitive, and their result as to the pupils' standing is simply a factor in our general estimate, the knowledge that educational experts of such large experience are to pass critically through the classes can but have a very stimulating effect on all parties, while their suggestions, either official or informal, are always both acceptable and useful. No one can be more desirous of these annual visits being kept up than the Principal, who is properly held responsible for the general advancement and efficiency of the pupils of the Institution in literary knowledge. I regret too, that, owing to the necessity for discontinuing the examination for one session, the present report loses a feature of much interest. As a means of justly apportioning the annual prizes and deciding promotions, the classes were examined by the Principal and literary teachers, who were of course able to tell how far each class might be fairly supposed to have gone in its particular studies, and while the effects of the disturbing causes above referred to were evident in many cases, it was most gratifying to find what good use had been made, both by teachers and pupils, of the four months during which class work had been uninterrupted. I trust that the necessity for introducing the Kindergarten system for the junior pupils will have been so apparent to the official mind as to ensure its adoption before many months are over. Hitherto, while by ordinary methods the young blind child has been trained to habits of application, and in a more or less crude and accidental fashion has received primary ideas as to shape, form and utility, the teaching has been neither systematic nor scientific. What is wanted in that regard the Kindergarten provides. The infantile ideas are shaped and moulded by an exact process and objectively applied. The hands and wrists—usually the weakest portions of a blind child's physical economy—are strengthened, and a most attractive means of improvement and recreation is provided for the youthful mind. I have already brought the subject to your notice and trust that it may fully commend itself to your judgment.

THE MUSIC CLASSES.

These classes, like those of the literary department, were sensibly affected by the same state of affairs. The ill health, too, of Mr. Knight, the senior music teacher, was an addition to the prevailing difficulties. But we were fortunate in having in our lady teachers those who were fully competent to supply all deficiencies for the time being, and, by slightly reducing the number of music lessons—but without abridging the pupil's time for practice—all were kept under instruction, and our closing concert, I think, must have convinced any one competent to judge, that the standard of efficiency had been well maintained. I must not forget, in this connection, to refer to the hearty co-operation received from our non-resident instructors in vocal music and the violin respectively, Mrs. Dr. Howson and Prof. Baker, whose pupils on all public occasions add by their efforts so much to the pleasure of our visitors and do credit to the attention bestowed upon them. For reasons similar to those mentioned in regard to the literary classes, we had no official examination of the music classes at the close of last session. The plan of inducting our senior music pupils into the art of teaching is being systematically carried on. Three male and three female pupils are regularly engaged as monitorial instructors under the direction of Mr. E. H. Williams and Miss Callaghan respectively. Our stock of pianos

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is in good order, but the extreme wear and tear from constant practice tells severely upon them, and an additional instrument will be needed before another session commences.

THE TUNING CLASS.

The tuning class numbers 19 pupils, all but one under direct instructions from Mr. W. G. Raymond. The exception is a youth who has just joined the class and is receiving primary lessons from a senior, while two others, who attend Mr. Raymond's classes, are being helped forward in the same manner. Three young men are, this session, concluding their pianoforte tuning course. They divide between them the care of our instruments and also assist in the instruction of juniors. Reports from pupils who have graduated from this department, are on the whole very satisfactory. Those employed (four in number) by Messrs. Mason & Risch, of Toronto, are, I believe, all doing well, and others are making a good living by their independent exertions. I could desire, however, that other manufacturers than the firm mentioned should avail of our pupils' services. I can but believe that what one establishment has found profitable would be equally advantageous to others, while the young men would have the great advantage of employment under expert supervision and thus enjoy a sort of apprenticeship before going out into the world on their own account. It is well it should be understood, however, that our tuning class must be limited in numbers. The instructor attends only on two days in the week and, besides, the scope and opportunity for blind tuners to obtain a livelihood in this Province in competition with seeing rivals, are more or less contracted. For disciplinary reasons too, not easily explained to outsiders, while very apparent to the officers of the institution, I am obliged not unfrequently to disappoint the aspirations of pupils and the wishes in some instances of their friends by declining to place lads in the tuning class. Tuning, moreover, is a business needing certain well developed faculties, and where these are deficient even the most painstaking instructions will not produce a really first-class tuner.

THE WILLOW SHOP.

This very interesting and important branch of instruction, has been perhaps rather less disturbed than others during the past year. Its pupils being mostly among the seniors in age, very generally escaped contagion and, encouraged by the calm and fearless example of their worthy instructor, many of them worked quietly on with little interruption. Only one full graduate was presented for outfit at the close of the session, although several are working in the advanced stages of their industrial course. Mr. Truss's report is submitted herewith:—

TRADE INSTRUCTOR'S REPORT.

MR. A. H. DYMOND,

Principal.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my report upon the operations of the workshop during the year ending September 30th, 1886:

The session has been one of fair progress, considering the difficulties encountered and the more or less interrupted attendance of some of the pupils. The behaviour of the latter has been, during a somewhat trying time, worthy of praise and their industry as usual commendable. The following statements will show to some extent the practical nature of the instruction given:—

Sales of Manufactured articles	\$560 27
On hand unsold	75 00
Total	\$635 27

PUPILS' VACATION WORK.

(On their own account).

T. P. earned	.....	\$31 00
A. S. "	.....	15 30
S. L. "	.....	27 00
J. S. "	.....	30 00
I. P. "	.....	25 00
F. P. "	.....	25 00
A. C. "	.....	11 00
D. P. "	.....	10 00
M. N. "	.....	25 00
S. W. "	.....	30 00
W. D. "	.....	36 00
J. W. "	.....	15 00
T. E. "	.....	25 00
Total vacation earnings	.....	\$305 30

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

THOS. TRUSS,
Trade Instructor.

THE WORK ROOM AND KNITTING ROOM.

Excellent work has been done in both these branches of industrial instruction during the past session. The pupils in the Work Room now number 34, and in the Knitting Room 44. The difference is principally owing to the number of very young pupils who can be taught to knit before they can learn to sew by hand or machine. Most of these children are also members of the Bead Work class, which is instructed by Miss Loveys, the head of the Work Room. The great variety of work turned out by hand in the Knitting Room affords much scope for the pupils' abilities, and favours greatly their chances of obtaining employment after leaving the Institution. At the same time the use of the knitting machine is not neglected, and several pupils are thoroughly expert in its management.

THE LIBRARY.

The following books have been added to the Pupils' Library during the past year: In embossed line type—"The Pronouncer and Definer"; "David Copperfield," Dickens; "Successors of Mahomet," Irving; "The Talisman," Scott; "Physiology," Huxley; "History of Our Own Times," McCarthy; Shakspeare's "Henry V.," and Woodman's "Nannette." In point print—Upton's "Standard Operas"; Miss Yonge's "History of France"; Shakspeare's "Tempest"; "Musical History," and the Book of Psalms. In both line and point—Leigh Richmond's "Dairyman's Daughter." The cost of the several portions of the Holy Scriptures in embossed type had until lately been all but prohibitory to their purchase by any considerable number of blind persons. The Bible is published by the American Bible Society in eight volumes, six for the Old and two for the New Testament. These were charged, until a few months since, at the rate of two and a-half dollars a volume, or twenty dollars for the whole Bible. It will be readily supposed, therefore, that it was with no little pleasure we received information during the last part of the late session that the Society had, by public liberality, been able to reduce the price to seventy-five cents per volume, or six dollars for the whole set. Any one volume of the Scriptures can now, therefore, be had for a sum easily commanded by most. I cannot express too strongly my sense of the obligation the blind of Canada are

under to the several American printing houses by which embossed books are issued, or to the managers for the intelligent selection of a high-toned and attractive literature suited to the wants of all classes of blind readers.

HEALTH.

It is painful to be obliged to report that, after many years immunity from fatal illness within the walls of the Institution, two of our pupils, one a lad of 14, the other a young woman of 22 years, were removed by death during the past session. In my supplementary report, dated 22nd October, 1886, I referred at some length to the visitation of diphtheria, which had then become fatal in one instance only. At that time we were all encouraged to believe that the trouble was over, and that the rigorous measures adopted, and apparently complete isolation secured, had arrested the spread of the disease. I also ventured the opinion, and now with even more confidence reiterate it, that the disease was imported, and had no local origin. All our consultations here, and with competent judges from elsewhere, tend to strengthen such a conclusion. This assurance has not led to any relaxation of our efforts to protect ourselves against possible causes of mischief. On the contrary, we have adopted and are still carrying out, as opportunity offers, such improvements in this direction as suggest themselves. But, when by correspondence with pupils' friends in various parts of the Province, I found an almost universal testimony to the presence of diphtheria in their respective neighbourhoods, it did not appear to me at all surprising that, in such a community as ours, re-assembling from all points, the enemy should have insinuated itself. The mysterious manner in which the disease appeared and reappeared, the different degrees of severity with which the victims were attacked, and the utter impossibility of connecting its assaults with any personal intercourse between those assailed, would afford quite a theme for speculative theories and reasoning among those who profess to a scientific knowledge of such matters. That in some shape or other the poison had been introduced into and had distributed itself throughout the building was, however, made clear to all of us. That any thorough system of purification could be carried out effectively so long as our pupil population remained at its ordinary figures, was at the same time clearly impracticable. On the other hand, to distribute arbitrarily through houses or families in all directions those who might carry the seeds of contagion with them, was not to be thought of. We therefore waited, adopting every possible means of disinfection until it appeared safe to advise the removal of all whose friends were disposed to take them home or could suitably do so. In December, about half the number in attendance consequently left us, and the work of painting, alabastining and varnishing, as well as general disinfection by other methods, at once commenced. The pupils returned on the 10th of February, and I am happy to report that the good health of the Institution during the remainder of the session was—so far as any epidemic was concerned—quite unbroken. Meantime, several modern improvements in drain ventilation and other sanitary measures claimed attention as a protective against all conceivable contingencies. Of the particular cases of diphtheria I leave Dr. Corson to speak in his report. I have in my last year's reference to this period of anxiety endeavoured to do justice to officers and others, on whom fell most heavily the burden of responsibility. It is pleasant to reflect that, at such a time, my relations with our medical attendant and his temporary associate-physician Dr. Philip, of this city, were of the most harmonious character, and to both my thanks are due for their ever ready and prompt attention. In Dr. Bryce, of the Provincial Board of Health, we had, too, a most valuable and energetic adviser. Nor must I omit to allude to the kindness displayed by the parents of pupils, whose feelings were naturally most strongly appealed to by the danger which appeared to beset their children. I believe their confidence was largely due, as well as the calmness and self-possession of the pupils themselves, to the fact that no attempt was made to withhold from either the knowledge of the actual state of affairs from day to day, whether the news conveyed was hopeful or disappointing. The boy who first showed symptoms of diphtheria and so soon succumbed to the disease, was parentless and all but friendless. The parents of the young woman claimed by death at a later period

were with us when she died, and we had the privilege of doing whatever was within our power to alleviate their grief. Their loss was not, however, without its high consolations. I must not forget to mention in this connection the self-sacrificing kindness which led our former laundress, a woman advanced in years and living in quiet comfort with her relatives, to come to us in our extremity. No one, of course, supposed she would be liable to attack, but she was prostrated by diphtheria in a most severe form, and although the complaint itself yielded to treatment her constitution never rallied, and after a lingering illness she died in the hospital of this city where she for some weeks most kindly and carefully treated as a private patient.

DISCIPLINE.

It was unavoidable that, during long months of unsettlement, discipline should be, to some extent, relaxed. I had, however, no reason to believe that this led to any regrettable results. The pupils, as a rule, were well conducted and orderly in their demeanour, and only too glad when at length able to settle down to their studies with regularity and assiduity. It will be observed that one pupil is mentioned as "excluded for cause." The reasons which made her an unsuitable companion for other young girls were of a character which all judicious and thoughtful parents would appreciate, and need not be more specifically alluded to.

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS.

Among the most needed improvements urged in former reports was a new roof for the main building of the Institution. For years past the old sheet-iron deck roof had been a source of continual discomfort and expense. It has now been covered with a sloping slate roof, which adds much to the appearance of the structure and will, I trust, effectually prevent further trouble. In the interior of the Institution the alteration of the steam apparatus to allow of a lower pressure being used in heating the building, thus securing both enhanced safety and economy, and the more regular and effective supply of heat to some portions of the latter, has been brought to completion. This work has been done by our excellent engineer and his assistants without any outside help, and the intelligence, industry and energy, with which they have laboured during a period when some little respite from duty is usually to be expected is beyond all praise. The large amount of internal painting accomplished in the winter recess made any extensive work in this direction during the late vacation unnecessary.

THE GROUNDS.

My attention has been recently turned more particularly to beautifying the portion of the grounds lying nearest the city, and planting the new land in our rear with a view to its ultimate use as a park. Some four acres of the former have been laid down in permanent pasture and with, so far, excellent results. The trees and evergreens planted during the present year have been severely tried by the long prevailing drought and the intense heat of the season, but by frequent watering I am happy to report the majority have been preserved. We have had an uninterrupted and ample supply of water from our own spring, and I may hereafter submit a recommendation for the further saving, for outside purposes, of a large quantity which now runs to waste after all ordinary needs are supplied. I trust the good work of planting and ornamentation will receive in the coming estimates the usual friendly encouragement.

FARM AND GARDEN.

Our garden produce has been more prolific than at one time was to be expected, but in this and on our field crops the drought has told with serious effects. Our potato crop will fall short of our requirements, the tubers being small and in some instances immature

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in appearance. A crop of oats which promised to do well turned out to be hardly worth the threshing. Mangolds and turnips will, it is probable, after all, give us a moderate average. On the whole we seem to have done quite as well as our neighbours or perhaps a little better than many.

IMPROVEMENTS SUGGESTED.

In view of the many beneficial improvements carried out during the past few years, I do not propose at this time to make any suggestions of a costly nature, unless it be once more to appeal to the liberality and intelligence of those in authority for the often asked for and much needed gymnasium. In the absence of any serious demands from this Institution upon the Treasury at the present time this boon might surely be granted.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Our circumstances during the past session did not admit of that free interchange of courtesies, which is generally so pleasant to all parties, between the officers and pupils of the Institution and the citizens of Brantford. For a considerable time the Institution was closed to visitors altogether and our pupils were, on several occasions, much to their regret, denied the privilege of attending lectures, concerts and other amusements. The Christmas concert in our Music Hall, usually looked forward to with great pleasure, could not be held. The closing concert in June, however, was honoured by even a larger attendance than usual, numbers being unable to gain admittance owing to the crowd that filled the hall.

I must once more thank the clergy of the city for their continued interest in the welfare of the pupils and their attendance to our Sunday afternoon service. I desire also to acknowledge the generous tone and language of the local press during the trying period of sickness to which I have had in this report to make frequent reference.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. DYMOND,
Principal.

Brantford, October 1st, 1887.

ONTARIO INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

STATISTICS FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1887.

I.—ATTENDANCE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Attendance for portion of year ending 30th September, 1872	20	14	34
“ for year ending 30th September, 1873	44	24	68
“ “ “ 1874	66	46	112
“ “ “ 1875	89	50	139
“ “ “ 1876	84	64	148
“ “ “ 1877	76	72	148
“ “ “ 1878	91	84	175
“ “ “ 1879	100	100	200
“ “ “ 1880	105	98	203
“ “ “ 1881	103	98	201
“ “ “ 1882	94	73	167
“ “ “ 1883	88	72	160
“ “ “ 1884	71	69	140
“ “ “ 1885	86	74	160
“ “ “ 1886	93	71	164
“ “ “ 1887	93	62	155

II.—AGE OF PUPILS.

	No.		No.
Five years	1	Seventeen years	10
Six “	3	Eighteen “	9
Seven “	2	Nineteen “	8
Eight “	3	Twenty “	8
Nine “	3	Twenty-one “	8
Ten “	9	Twenty-two “	6
Eleven “	10	Twenty-three “	6
Twelve “	7	Twenty-four “	7
Thirteen “	6	Twenty-five “	2
Fourteen “	13	Over twenty-five years	17
Fifteen “	6		
Sixteen “	11	Total	155

American ...
Canadian ...
English ...
Irish ...
French ...
German ...

Baptist ...
Congregatio
Children of
Episcopalia
Christian ...
Lutheran ...

Actor ...
Agent ...
Baker ...
Barber ...
Book-keep
Blacksmith
Butcher ...
Carpenter ...
Carpenter ...
Clerk ...
Conductor
Clergyman
Cabinet-maker
Drover ...
Engineer ...
Farmer ...
Gardener ...
Fisherman
Harness-maker
Hotel-keeper
Laborer ...
Lawyer ...

III.—NATIONALITY OF PARENTS.

	No.		No.
American	5	Norwegian	1
Canadian	60	Scotch	16
English	36	Wendish	2
Irish	27		
French	6		
German	2	Total	155

Total.

IV.—DENOMINATION OF PARENTS.

	No.		No.
Baptist	11	Methodist	43
Congregational	5	Presbyterian	28
Children of Peace	2	Roman Catholic	23
Episcopalian	38	Salvationist	1
Christian	1		
Lutheran	3	Total	155

V.—OCCUPATION OF PARENTS.

	No.		No.
Actor	1	Manufacturer	1
Agent	5	Marble-worker	1
Baker	1	Merchant	8
Barber	1	Miller	1
Book-keeper	3	Painter	2
Blacksmith	4	Physician	2
Butcher	1	Sheriff	1
Carpenter	7	Soldier	1
Carpet-cleaner	1	Stone-mason	1
Clerk	3	Shoemaker	3
Conductor	1	Surveyor	1
Clergyman	1	Tailor	1
Cabinet-maker	3	Tanner	1
Drover	1	Tinsmith	1
Engineer	2	Tradesman	1
Farmer	48	Veterinary surgeon	1
Gardener	2	Waggon-maker	1
Fisherman	2	Weaver	1
Harness-maker	1	Unknown	6
Hotel-keeper	1		
Laborer	29		
Lawyer	1	Total	155

VI.—Cities and Counties from which pupils were received during the official year ending
30th September, 1887.

COUNTY OR CITY.	Male.	Female.	Total.	COUNTY OR CITY.	Male.	Female.	Total.
City of Belleville	0	1	1	District of Muskoka	2	0	2
County of Brant	2	2	4	County of Norfolk	0	1	1
City of Brantford	2	0	2	“ Northumberland	0	1	1
County of Bruce	2	3	5	“ Ontario	3	3	6
“ Carleton	1	0	1	City of Ottawa	3	0	3
“ Dundas	0	1	1	County of Oxford	0	1	1
“ Durham	0	0	0	“ Peel	1	0	1
“ Elgin	1	3	4	“ Perth	1	0	1
“ Essex	7	9	16	“ Peterboro'	2	0	2
“ Frontenac	0	2	2	“ Prince Edward	2	0	2
“ Glengarry	0	0	0	“ Prescott	1	0	1
“ Grenville	0	0	0	“ Renfrew	4	3	7
Grey	1	4	5	“ Russell	0	0	0
City of Guelph	1	0	1	City of St. Catharines	0	0	0
County of Haldimand	3	2	5	“ St. Thomas	1	0	1
“ Halton	1	0	1	“ Stratford	1	0	1
City of Hamilton	4	2	6	County of Simcoe	2	0	2
County of Hastings	0	1	1	“ Stormont	1	2	3
“ Huron	2	2	4	City of Toronto	10	2	12
City of Kingston	3	0	3	County of Victoria	2	0	2
County of Kent	0	3	3	“ Waterloo	1	1	2
“ Lambton	4	3	7	“ Welland	1	0	1
“ Leeds	2	0	2	“ Wellington	5	1	6
“ Lanark	0	0	0	“ Wentworth	0	3	3
“ Lennox	2	1	3	“ York	8	5	13
“ Lincoln	1	1	2				
City of London	4	1	5				
County of Middlesex	0	2	2	Total	93	62	155

VII.—Cities and Counties from which pupils were received from the opening of the
Institution till 30th September, 1887.

COUNTY OR CITY.	Male.	Female.	Total.	COUNTY OR CITY.	Male.	Female.	Total.
City of Belleville	3	1	4	District of Muskoka	3	0	3
County of Brant	4	5	9	County of Norfolk	5	6	11
City of Brantford	6	5	11	“ Northumberland	2	7	9
County of Bruce	5	8	13	“ Ontario	6	6	12
“ Carleton	2	1	3	City of Ottawa	7	1	8
“ Dundas	2	2	4	County of Oxford	2	2	4
“ Durham	1	3	4	“ Peel	1	1	2
“ Elgin	2	3	5	“ Perth	2	8	10
“ Essex	4	10	14	“ Peterboro'	9	2	11
“ Frontenac	5	2	7	“ Prince Edward	3	2	5
“ Glengarry	4	0	4	“ Prescott	1	0	1
“ Grenville	2	0	2	“ Renfrew	7	4	11
Grey	6	9	15	“ Russell	1	1	2
City of Guelph	2	2	4	City of St. Catharines	2	0	2
County of Haldimand	4	4	8	“ St. Thomas	2	1	3
“ Halton	3	0	3	“ Stratford	2	0	2
City of Hamilton	3	8	11	County of Simcoe	4	7	11
County of Hastings	4	3	7	“ Stormont	4	0	4
“ Huron	6	6	12	City of Toronto	19	14	33
City of Kingston	5	3	8	County of Victoria	4	1	5
County of Kent	6	4	10	“ Waterloo	5	3	8
“ Lambton	6	3	9	“ Welland	3	2	5
“ Leeds	7	1	8	“ Wellington	9	5	14
“ Lanark	0	1	1	“ Wentworth	7	6	13
“ Lennox	3	1	4	“ York	14	9	23
“ Lincoln	3	1	4	Province of Quebec	2	0	2
City of London	3	8	11				
County of Middlesex	7	7	14	Total	244	191	435

VIII.—Cities and Counties from which pupils were received who were in residence on 30th September, 1887.

COUNTY OR CITY.	Male.	Female.	Total.	COUNTY OR CITY.	Male.	Female.	Total.
City of Belleville.....	0	1	1	District of Muskoka.....	2	0	2
County of Brant.....	2	2	4	County of Norfolk.....	0	0	0
City of Brantford.....	2	0	2	“ Northumberland.....	0	1	1
County of Bruce.....	2	3	5	“ Ontario.....	2	3	5
“ Carleton.....	1	0	1	City of Ottawa.....	3	0	3
“ Dundas.....	0	1	1	County of Oxford.....	0	0	0
“ Durham.....	0	0	0	“ Peel.....	1	0	1
“ Elgin.....	0	3	3	“ Perth.....	0	0	0
“ Essex.....	1	4	5	“ Peterboro’.....	2	0	2
“ Frontenac.....	1	0	1	“ Prince Edward.....	2	0	2
“ Glengarry.....	2	0	2	“ Prescott.....	1	0	1
“ Grenville.....	0	0	0	“ Renfrew.....	2	2	4
“ Grey.....	1	4	5	“ Russell.....	0	0	0
City of Guelph.....	2	0	2	City of St. Catharines.....	0	0	0
County of Halton.....	3	1	4	“ St. Thomas.....	2	1	3
“ Halton.....	1	0	1	“ Stratford.....	0	0	0
City of Hamilton.....	4	3	7	County of Simcoe.....	0	2	2
County of Hastings.....	0	1	1	“ Stormont.....	0	0	0
“ Huron.....	2	2	4	City of Toronto.....	9	2	11
City of Kingston.....	3	0	3	County of Victoria.....	2	0	2
County of Kent.....	0	3	3	“ Waterloo.....	1	1	2
“ Lambton.....	3	3	6	“ Welland.....	3	0	3
“ Leeds.....	1	0	1	“ Wellington.....	3	1	4
“ Lennox.....	0	0	0	“ Wentworth.....	0	1	1
“ Lenoxx.....	2	0	2	“ York.....	6	3	9
“ Lincoln.....	1	1	2				
City of London.....	3	1	4				
County of Middlesex.....	0	1	1	Total.....	76	51	127

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PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

R. CHRISTIE, Esq.,

Inspector of Prisons, Asylums, etc.

SIR,—In submitting the Annual Medical Report of this Institution, it may be expected I should particularly allude to the outbreak of diphtheria which prevailed last session, to the exclusion of other subjects plainly of less importance.

Diphtheria is a disease often mysterious in its origin, diverse and obscure in its mode of propagation, uncertain in the choice of its subjects, and withal very capricious in the selection of its victims, striking down with unrelenting blow one member of a family, while another receives but the faintest touch of the same hand. It spares neither childhood, manhood nor old age, and it enters the homes alike of the poor and the rich; it prevails most in the crowded cities, but it has been known to follow the sportsman to his camp in the forest. Its spread has become so universal that in its ravages it may be regarded as one of the direst scourges of our time.

In presenting a connected history of this epidemic, reference must be made to the first case, a boy named John Alexander, aged fourteen, whom I was called to see, October 7th, 1886, at which time an examination revealed intense inflammation of the tonsils, upon which were such circumscribed patches of membrane as are frequently seen in simple tonsillitis. The boy was ordered to bed, and put upon the use of the ordinary remedies, such as tincture of aconite internally together with the chlorate of potash gargle. At the visit the following morning remarkable changes had taken place in the appearance of the throat in the intervening hours. True, diphtheritic membrane was observed covering the tonsils, the faucial pillars and the pharynx, generally, while the glands of the neck had become greatly swollen, the countenance dusky and the breathing difficult, and it was evident from these grave symptoms that the case was hastening to a fatal issue. To add to our misfortune it was discovered that two other young pupils were stricken by the same disease, and immediately, for the purpose of isolation and treatment, the three patients were placed in our hospital ward, which gave us such excellent service all through this trying ordeal.

The spectral presence of a contagious and fatal disease, projected without warning into a community of young children, was sufficiently appalling when all the possibilities were considered. It was at this juncture that yourself, as Inspector, and Dr. Bryce, Provincial Secretary of the Board of Health, were summoned to our aid by telegraph. By your prompt arrival the same evening, we had the benefit of Dr. Bryce's excellent counsel, not only in regard to the treatment of the sick children, but in suggesting the best precautionary measures to prevent the further spread of the disease, and in investigating the causes of the epidemic. Dr. Bryce kindly approved of the treatment entered upon, but advised an additional remedy in the inhalation of steam, medicated by turpentine and carbolic acid. The apparatus for the generation of steam was immediately extemporized, but all our efforts, though of the most energetic nature, could not rescue the lad Alexander, for he succumbed to his disease the following morning. The two remaining boys, aged about ten years, were now struggling heroically with the disease in a severe form, and though both were delicate in appearance, yet they maintained their ground against uneven odds, and were finally brought safely through.

The next on the list was a female servant, employed on the boy's side, whose attack proved to be mild in character, confining her to her bed for a few days only.

Other cases now occurred in quick succession, such as the young female nurse, engaged from the J. H. Stratford Hospital, who escaped with a brief illness. Then followed a boy, a companion of the boy Alexander, whose case, though somewhat prolonged, was never the cause of serious anxiety. There then ensued a considerable period of rest without new manifestations of the epidemic, and we began to grow confident we had seen the last of our enemy. Thus far, it will be observed, the disease had been confined to the male side of the house, and as a preventive measure all communication between the two wings had been as far as practicable broken off. But our hopes received a rude shock, for just one

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month from the convalescence of one of the little boys above named, his young sister was suddenly prostrated by diphtheria. A week previously the two children had been allowed to come together, but not, of course, until a thorough disinfection of the boy's clothing and person had been accomplished. Whether the disease was communicated in this way must remain a matter of conjecture. I understand Dr. Bryce believes it possible, but if that theory be correct, why, it may be asked, did not this boy communicate the disease to some or other of his companions with whom he was continually mingling?

Something more than a passing reference should be made to the case of this little girl, on account of her remarkable recovery from what seemed certain death, and by which we learn the lesson never to relax our efforts to save our patients as long as life remains. Of course the disease was seen in this instance in its initiatory stages, and active treatment was at once entered upon, including the steam inhalations, but the disease progressed unchecked, the thick sloughy-appearing membrane finally covering the whole surface of the upper air passages, while the enormous swelling of the cervical glands gave the case an unpromising appearance. A still more threatening symptom arose in the form of profuse bleeding of the nose, caused, no doubt, by the separation of membrane in the nasal passages. Temporizing remedies were at first tried, but it was soon found that the flow of blood could be staunched only by plugging the nostrils. The loss of blood left the little patient with the pallor of death upon her countenance at every accession of hemorrhage. On one occasion, while I was present, she was observed in a convulsive struggle, and the little sufferer appeared to be in the last gasp, but the paroxysm ended in her coughing up a portion of thick tough membrane resembling an oyster. By the use of restoratives she soon rallied, and this event proved to be the turning point towards final recovery.

Still another case may be referred to, less fortunate in its results, but equally instructive. Later on in the epidemic a female pupil, aged 22 years, became the subject of diphtheria, and was placed under the same treatment as the others. There was nothing unusual in the early history of her illness, except that some laryngeal symptoms were developed, which gave us considerable anxiety. These, however, soon passed away, but in the progress of her illness an unlooked for complication occurred in the form of nausea and vomiting, necessitating the discontinuance of all active treatment and reducing the quantity of nourishment to the very minimum compatible with existence. As a natural result of this complication the heart's action became very feeble, threatening complete failure. Under these circumstances all our efforts were directed to sustaining the enfeebled heart, while for days the patient was not allowed to raise her head or make any bodily effort, but unfortunately all our efforts were in vain, for one morning a sudden change was noticed in her appearance, and before medical aid could be summoned she had passed away, death doubtless resulting from paralysis of the heart. In connection with this case it should be mentioned that Dr. Philip attended the patient, with me, throughout her illness, and also that her parents, having been apprized of the serious nature of her sickness, were present some days before her demise. I might add that Dr. Philip expressed not only a hearty approval of the plan of treatment adopted, but also gave his cordial co-operation in all the means employed to combat the epidemic.

As an example of the erratic nature of diphtheria the case of Jane Moffat may be mentioned, who had come very kindly to fill a vacancy in the laundry. She was taken down with the disease two weeks from the time of entering the Institution. Diphtheria is a disease supposed to belong almost exclusively to childhood and youth; here, however, was a woman 62 years old, whose age might seem proof against the possibility of contagion, but who takes the malady in severe form, the whole pharynx, roof of the mouth and nares being covered by membrane, which, with the cervical swelling and engorgement, caused great difficulty in breathing and swallowing. After days and nights of anxious watching, in which the chances seemed evenly balanced between life and death, a change for the better became finally apparent. After all trace of membrane had disappeared, and the patient had gained sufficient strength to sit up, it was thought prudent to have her removed to the J. H. Stratford Hospital during her slow convalescence, but I regret to say that after a stay in the hospital of several weeks she died rather suddenly, as I am informed, from probably one of the sequelæ of diphtheria.

As to the origin, or, as we say, the pathogenesis, of the disease in our Institution, of course the most reasonable supposition at the outset was that some serious defect in the sanitary appliances of the Institution would be found to explain the presence of such an epidemic; but after a most painstaking and exhaustive investigation by Dr. Bryce, no local cause could be ascertained as to the origin of the outbreak. This part of the inquiry has been sufficiently described in the supplementary portion of the Principal's report of last year, and therefore need not be repeated. With such negative results as this investigation supplied it was concluded that the boy, Alexander, having contracted diphtheria in some accidental manner, had brought it into the Institution. Further observation and experience, however, have convinced me that a wave of epidemic diphtheria passed over the city and the contagium vivum was carried on the wings of the wind. It is inconceivable that on a certain day or week the city became suddenly in an insanitary condition, its wells of water polluted or its drains untrapped, and that on a certain day or week two months later the water supply became suddenly purified or the defective drains repaired. Or if we conclude the disease was conveyed from person to person, why should not the disease be perpetuated indefinitely in this manner?

The essence or starting point of diphtheria is a micro-organism, germ or microbe, but when or how generated, when or how transported, sanitary science is not always able fully to explain.

The *diagnosis* of the disease is the subject of considerable diversity of opinion in the medical profession, some practitioners designating every simple inflammation of the tonsil diphtheric, while others would confine the term to a well organized membrane in contradistinction to a mere secretion, which is often seen as a small white patch on the tonsil. The most doubtful cases are those which have been called amygdalitis lacunaris or follicular tonsillitis, where the exudation is seen in scattered white points only, but which are thought capable of communicating the disease in severe form, and experience certainly teaches that too many precautions can scarcely be taken to prevent the spread of the disease during any germ epidemic.

As to *treatment*, the therapeutical measures employed were both constitutional and local, equal stress being laid upon the two classes of remedies in counteracting the effects of a specific poison. Dr. Bryce concurred in the remedial measures employed, but, as already mentioned, suggested the use of steam inhalations medicated by turpentine and carbolic acid. In my own practice all such inhalations have been confined to cases where the lower air passages were involved, as in the laryngeal or tracheal (croupous) form, but none of our cases had this complication. Certainly our experience in the late epidemic did not prove that steam inhalations had any influence in modifying the course of the disease. I might remark in this connection that no remedies, however potential or judiciously selected, have the power of abridging the disease, and that the aim of the practitioner must be to guide it through its inevitable course to a successful issue, just as we do in typhoid fever. Indeed, the same careful attention to nourishment and to supporting measures generally, including the free use of stimulants, is often of as much importance in the one disease as the other. Both have a definite course to run and no amount of medication, however skilfully employed, will shorten that course by a single day. In the mild cases that course is short, in the malignant it is much prolonged, unless terminated by a fatal issue, and as a rule the medical attendant can determine on the second day to which class any given case will belong.

Our epidemic lasted, with intervals, for a period of nearly three months, in which time there was a total of twenty-five cases, two of which resulted fatally. It will be seen that this rate of mortality (8 per cent.) is very low, and is ground for encouragement to use every means in our power to keep the disease under control, and to husband the patient's strength till the disease has spent its force.

Disinfectants were profusely employed throughout the building, but it should be understood that disinfectants are merely deodorants as ordinarily used, and that a true disinfectant must be powerful enough to be destructive to life, whether that life be germ or human, hence the impracticability of employing disinfectants in any living apartment. The disinfection of clothing in close closets, or by means of steam or dry heat, presents one difficulty in getting the agent to penetrate sufficiently to accomplish its purpose.

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Hence the necessity of destroying infected mattresses, etc., after all trace of the disease had disappeared from the Institution. The whole inside woodwork of the building received a coat of paint, and the plastered walls a coat of alabastine in order to cover any microbes which might adhere to these surfaces. No disinfectant can, however, be compared with fresh air, and when doors and windows can be thrown open long enough for free ventilation, the work will be thoroughly accomplished.

It may seem invidious to make comparisons where all performed their part so well, but justice compels me to mention the unwearied attentions of the Matron, Miss Dunn, whose cheerful presence gave hope and support to everyone, and whose footsteps were heard in ceaseless tread, by night and by day, up and down the long corridors in the discharge of her multifarious duties.

I am under lasting obligations to the Principal in anticipating as well as providing for every conceivable want. In our long and anxious daily consultations his firmness of purpose, kindness of heart and cordial co-operation, were of great service to myself in the performance of trying duties.

I have the honour to be,
Yours very respectfully,

W. C. CORSON, M.D.,
Physician.

Brantford, October 8th, 1887