

ANSWER
OF
THE TRUSTEES
OF THE
TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL
TO THE REPORT
OF
THE INSPECTOR OF PRISONS, ETC.,
LATELY PRESENTED TO
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

TORONTO:
PRINTED AT THE LEADER OFFICE, 63 KING STREET EAST.
1871.

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ANSWER TO THE REPORT
OF
THE INSPECTOR OF PRISONS, &c.,
RELATIVE TO
THE TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The Trustees of the Toronto General Hospital have lately seen the Report of Mr. Langmuir, the Inspector of Asylums, Prisons, &c., presented to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, during the present Session, in which it is stated: "I visited the Hospital on the 8th December, on "which day there were 94 patients in residence. Although "perfect cleanliness and order cannot be looked for, or expected, in an Institution of the kind, still I think a good "deal more might be done to improve matters in this "respect, particularly on the male side of the house. The "bedding in the male wing ward was far from clean, "although the supply was sufficient. The revising of the "dietary lists does not apparently receive sufficient attention. The allowance, in many instances, on the day of "my visit, was in excess of what was used. The practice "of serving the whole bread rations for the day, at one "time, is also objectionable; some patients leave it until it "becomes dry and unpalatable. From the accounts rendered to me, it appears that the cost of food, medicines, "and medical comforts, is very much greater than the "same service costs in the Hospitals at Kingston^s and "Hamilton, although the dietaries in the last-named Hospitals are quite as liberal, and better served, than in "Toronto.

"The annexed statement exhibits the cost of each Hospital in respect to this service:—

"STATEMENT showing the actual cost, per day per patient, of Stores, Supplies, Medicines, and Medical Comforts, for the Year ending 30th September, 1870, in the City Hospitals of Toronto, Hamilton and Kingston:

	Patients under treatment.	Collective stay in Hospital.	Butchers' Meat.	Butter.	Beer, Wine, and Spirits.	Flour and Bread.	Medicine and Medical Comforts.	Groceries and Supplies.	Milk.	Vegetables.	Water Supply.	Total.	Cost per day per patient.
			£ c.	£ c.	£ c.	£ c.	£ c.	£ c.	£ c.	£ c.	£ c.	£ c.	cts.
Gen'l Hosp'l Toronto...	634	21348	1319 80	281 03	776 53	763 68	00 68	261 90	932 20	111 68	300 00	6274 51	29½
Kingston.	504	14743	689 97	329 58	135 01	499 78	36 53	593 73	.....	108 49	125 59	2718 63	18½
Hamilton	476	20301	597 96	167 89	125 20	625 48	361 35	607 64	.....	124 02	.....	2609 48	12¾

"From this tabular statement it would appear that food, medicine, and medical comforts, in the Toronto Hospital, costs more than twice as much per day for each patient as in Hamilton, and sixty per cent. more than in the Kingston Hospital."

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From this extract, it is to be collected from the Inspector's Report:

1st,—That there is a want of cleanliness and order in the Wards.

2nd,—That there is a want of cleanliness in the bedding in the male wing ward.

3rd,—That the dietary lists do not receive sufficient attention.

4th,—That the allowance in many instances, on the day of his visit, was in excess of what was used.

5th,—That the practice of serving the whole bread rations for the day, at one time, is objectionable, some patients leaving it until it becomes dry and unpalatable.

6th,—That from the accounts rendered to him, the cost of food, medicines, and medical comforts, is very much greater than the same service costs in the Hospitals at Hamilton and Kingston, although the dietaries in these Hospitals are quite as liberal as they are in Toronto.

7th,—That the meals are better served in these Hospitals than they are in Toronto.

This Report is either correct or incorrect. If it be correct, and if the returns of the other Hospitals be correct also, the management of the Toronto Hospital, so far as the cost is concerned, must be too extravagant and must be reformed. If it be incorrect, it is the place of the Trustees to point it out.

As to the alleged want of cleanliness of the wards, and as to the service and distribution, and alleged waste of food, the Trustees entertain no doubt they can satisfactorily answer these matters. These charges, too, even if well founded, are very easily answered. More vigilance, and a little more trouble taken, will at any time quite remove them.

EXPENSE OF MANAGEMENT.

The Trustees are concerned more particularly in dealing with the imputed expensiveness of their Trust, as that is the most serious charge, and the one in which the public may probably take the greatest interest. The Trustees have, since the appearance of the Report, examined the details of the return which was made by the Secretary of the Hospital to the Inspector. This return they did not see before it was sent in. The Trustees find that a serious mistake was made in the number of days which the stay of the patients in the Hospital for the year amounted to.

The number returned was 21,348. while the true number was and should have been 28,659. As the total number of days is the division in all computations affecting the expenses in question, an error in it must materially affect the results produced. The mistake, the Trustees believe, originated in this manner :

The number of patients in the Hospital on the 1st of October, 1869, was	63
The number of patients admitted to the Hospital from the 1st October, 1869, to the 1st October, 1870, was	569
Total during that year	632
The number returned was	634
The 63 patients were in the Hospital after the 1st October, 1869	7,783 days.
The 569 patients were in	20,876 "
Making the total number of days	28,659

The Secretary, it is believed, must have omitted from his return the stay of the 63 patients, and taken merely the stay of the 569 patients. His return of 21,348 days does not quite square with the 20,876 for the year patients, but it is not very seriously different from it. It formed, no

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doubt, the basis upon which he made his return. This, at all events, is our conjecture. The 63 patients in question were in Hospital, it will be seen, on an average of 123 days each; several of them were in for considerably more than 200 days. A list of the time that each one was in ward has been carefully made up.

The mistake referred to, which no doubt is a very serious one, is not, it is plain, attributable to the Inspector. He acted on the figures given to him. The error, however, attaches to the Report in fact, and the results dependent upon the former return must therefore be amended. The same statement also shows \$932.20 expended in Toronto for milk, and nothing whatever for it is stated in the respective Reports for Kingston or Hamilton. There is a return of \$55.39 made from Kingston for milk, but not copied into the Inspector's tabular statement. The return from Hamilton is, "Other expenditure, including milk, \$493.13." But how much of that is for milk is not stated in the return, and no amount is stated by the Inspector for the consumption of milk against the Hamilton Hospital. It may be stated as at least \$100. It appears in the same statement also that there is a sum of \$300 expended in Toronto for water, and nothing whatever is paid for it in Hamilton. The item of milk, before mentioned, the Trustees will have to refer to when they explain the large expenditure for beer and spirits.

The tabular statement, as amended in the number of patients treated and the total days stay in the Hospital, will be as follows:

	Patients.	Days.
Toronto	632	28,659
Kingston.	504	14,743
Hamilton.	466	19,572

It is singular, while Kingston had more patients treated than Hamilton, that Hamilton should have 5,558 more days stay in Hospital than Kingston had.

It is, perhaps, to be accounted for by the fact that in Hamilton there is an outer ward, or shed, where persons who require no nursing are kept in food and medicine, but wait entirely on themselves. There were 16 such persons in that ward when Dr. Hampton, the Medical Superintendent of the Toronto Hospital, lately visited it. These persons, he represents, are not properly Hospital patients, but are more fitted for a Poor House. The ward is not properly an Hospital ward, but a poor ward attached to the Hospital. These 16 persons, having nothing but the Hospital regular allowance, can be kept at a minimum cost. Their support should not be estimated on the same scale as those who are proper Hospital patients, who require extras and special medical treatment.

The number of persons who passed through the Hospital at Hamilton, in the year, is stated in the Inspector's tabular statement at 476. In the Hamilton return it is stated once at 466, twice at 476, and once at 486. From the return 466 appears to be the proper number. The return made is as follows :

In Hospital 1st October, 1869	38
Admitted during the year.....	428
	—
	466

And the average number of days is stated to be 42 per patient. The figures, $466 \times 42 = 19,572$ days.

The statement shows also an expenditure for Medicine Medical Comforts for Toronto of \$500.68. It should have been \$754.81, as the difference in amount had been supplied, but not paid for when the return was made.

The following tabular statement, counting the persons in the outer ward or shed at Hamilton as Hospital patients, and amending the facts according to the preceding figures, will be as follows :

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AMENDED TABULAR STATEMENT.

	Patients under treatment.	Collective stay in Hospital.	Butchers' Meat.		Butter.		Beer, Wine, and Spirits.		Flour and Bread.		Medicine and Medical Comforts.		Groceries and Supplies.		Milk.		Potatoes and other Vegetables.		Water Supply.		Total.		Cost per day per Patient.
			\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.		Cts.
Toronto.	632	28659	1319	80	281	03	776	53	763	69	754	81	1261	90	932	20	111	68	300	00	6561	64	22½
Kingston ..	504	14743	689	97	329	58	135	01	499	73	236	53	593	73	55	39	108	49	125	59	2774	02	18½
Hamilton	466	19572	597	96	167	89	125	20	625	42	361	35	607	64	100	00	124	02	171	00	2880	48	14½

(1) Amended mistake in return.

(2) Kingston omitted by Inspector.

(3) Hamilton assumed from the return sent in.

(4) Hamilton paid nothing for water. To make a fair test of expenditure, Hamilton, with 19,582 days, should be charged with \$171—while Kingston pays \$125.59 for 14,743 days.

By this table Toronto had a daily average throughout the year of 78½ patients.

“ Kingston, “ “ “ 40½ “

“ Hamilton, “ “ “ 53½ “

Taking Kingston as a test of expenditure with Toronto, it will be found that the latter, with nearly double the number of days, has an expenditure of nearly double the amount of Kingston for butchers' meat, groceries and water, while for butter, Kingston exceeds Toronto in expenditure; nearly equals it as to vegetables; and is two thirds of it as to bread and flour.

As to these items the Toronto expenditure is \$4,038.10, and the Kingston \$2,374.09, the Hamilton expenditure as to these items is by the preceding table \$2,293.93. The proportion between the Toronto and Hamilton days is nearly as 3 to 2. The Toronto expenditure should, therefore, be one-half more than in Hamilton. That will make the Toronto-allowable expenditure \$3,440.90, but as will be seen it is \$4,038.10, or \$597.20 in excess of what it should be, taking the Hamilton expenditure as the proper test. This last sum makes a difference of a little more than 2 cents per day per patient against Toronto. As to these articles, Toronto is more below Kingston in expenditure than Hamilton is below Toronto.

But if the shed, or outer ward, at Hamilton, be filled with persons not properly patients, and receiving nothing but the ordinary diet and medical treatment, and no nursing or other attendance, the difference in economy will probably be found to be very little, if any, in favour of Hamilton. It is manifest then, that the chief difference in the preceding corrected tabular statement in the expenditure of these three Hospitals, does not arise from the items last mentioned.

It must, therefore, arise from the other items under the heads of beer, wine and spirits, medicine and medical forts and milk:—

The Toronto expenditure for these articles was	\$2,463	54
“ Kingston	“	“ 426 93
“ Hamilton	“	“ 586 55

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Now doubling the Kingston expenditure would make that of Toronto, in the ratio before mentioned as to Kingston \$853.86 and by adding half to the Hamilton expenditure, would make that of Toronto \$879.82. But the Toronto expenditure is nearly \$1,600 above either of these sums.

It is in consequence then of the very large outlay for these three items that the Toronto expenditure is raised above that of the other two Hospitals. The prescriptions of these articles, as is evident, is and must be under the sole direction of the Visiting Medical officers. The articles are used for patients only—the medicine is given to out-door patients as well, averaging about five per day—the spirits are used also in making up medicines. The Trustees now show the allowances ordered in the month of December last, for beer and spirits and for milk, by the different medical officers. The milk is the extra quantity beyond that which every patient in the Hospital receives in the daily distribution. The cost of the beer and spirits and milk for Toronto was \$1,708.73.

	Milk.	Beer.	Whiskey.
	pts.	pts.	ozs.
Dr. Aikins, to 19 patients, ordered	558	177	810
Dr. Berryman, 13 " "	262	74	848
Dr. Rowell, 9 " "	340	61	424
Dr. Richardson, 11 " "	412	62	990
Dr. Thorburn, 7 " "	389	102	386
Dr. Geikie, 25 " "	1057	124	3100
Dr. Canniff, 22 " "	712	64	994
Dr. Cassady, 20 " "	774	136	1696
Dr. Hodder, one of the consulting Physicians, ordered to one of the patients	24	..	..
Dr. Hampton, Resident Medical Officer, ordered to patients in emergency, and to some who were ad-			

	Milk. pts.	Beer. pts.	Whiskey. ozs.
mitted after the ordinary admission hours, until they could be attended to by a visiting Physician..	..	..	160
Used in Dispensary.....	..	..	360
	—	—	—
Total.....	4,528	800	9,768
	—	—	—

Equal to, of Milk, 566 gallons, at 12½c.	\$70	75
“ . Beer, 100 “ “ 25	25	00
“ Whiskey, 76 gals. 2½ pts.	85	64 86
	—	—

Total expenditure..... \$160 61

One of these patients, besides the ordinary Hospital diet, received for the whole month as extras, daily, 2 pints of milk and 1½ pints of whiskey.

Another received for eight days, daily, 3 pints of milk and 1½ pints of whiskey.

Other two for some days received 3 pints of milk and 1½ pints of whiskey. Another 4 pints of milk and 1 pint of whiskey. Several got 4 pints of milk and some whiskey, and so varying in quantities and times both as to milk and whiskey.

The total cost of the month for these articles was \$ 160 61

At an average for the year of \$1,927 32

Which would be in excess of the 12 months from October, 1869, to October, 1870, given in the tabular statement at \$1,708 73.

The great outlay which is made for beer and spirits and for milk, and which, with the amount for medicine, occasions the real difference of expenditure between this and the other two Hospitals referred to, is a charge for which the Trustees cannot rightly be deemed responsible; they have invited and obtained the best medical advice and skill to be had in the city, and they must, as they ought to

do, trust and not

Whether would be in respect, Trustees experienced few or more they present

All things in economy that, the

There which cases Trustees be made

The treatment altogether other hospital that the best have acted

The expenditure the Inspector items of proportion above the cause be even at hospital group for beer such special that the

do, trust that these gentlemen will order that which is right, and not more of anything than is necessary.

Whether a smaller number than eight visiting physicians would be a check upon any extravagant prescriptions in any respect, may be a question, however, that may be the Trustees must equally trust in the professional character and experience of the medical men whom they appoint, be they few or many, in the due dispensation of every article which they prescribe for the relief of their patients.

All the Trustees can be answerable for in this respect is, in economically carrying out the medical directions, and that, they believe they have honestly and successfully done.

There is no charge of needless or excessive expenditure which can be made against the Trustees. Nor have the Trustees any reason to believe that there is any which can be made against the Medical Officers.

The nature of the cases requiring such extraordinary treatment as that which is before referred to, may be altogether different from the cases which prevail in the other hospitals. The Trustees are bound to believe that the gentlemen composing the Toronto Hospital Staff, the best or among the best and ablest in their profession, have acted wisely and well in their own special department.

The Trustees believe they have now shown that the expenditure for all the articles in the Tabular Statement of the Inspector before mentioned, excepting the particular items of beer and spirits and of medicine and milk, is proportionately below that of the Kingston, and is but little above that of the Hamilton Hospital. And from the special cause before mentioned, it is perhaps not higher than it is even at Hamilton. They have shown that the principal ground of difference is occasioned by the large outlay for beer and spirits and for milk and medicine, and that for such special expenditure they are not accountable. But that the medical visitors are alone answerable for it, they

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have also shown that the propriety of that expenditure, they do not and cannot dispute. They depend upon the Medical officers for protection in that respect. And *they*, no doubt, can vindicate themselves if their practice or prescriptions be called in question.

DIET LISTS.

The charge respecting the dietary lists, the Trustees think, have been very properly made by the Inspector. The difficulty is how to deal with the subject.

The lists are settled by the Medical Visiting officers for their respective patients, and they should in general be revised daily.

The Medical officers, however, though they should by the present Rules of the Hospital, attend daily, do not do so. Some of them have not attended and do not attend for three or four successive days. The dietaries which they last directed are, nevertheless, continued. The Resident Physician finds it an exceedingly delicate act to interfere with these prescriptions.

It happens, therefore, that in many cases the allowances which ought to be altered, are not altered by reason of non-attendance of the Medical Visitors.

The Trustees have had occasion to complain of this, and they endeavoured to remedy it, they suggested it would be better to require only two or three of the Medical Staff to attend daily, and to take upon themselves the entire medical charge of the Hospital, for some certain period, say for a month.

So great a number as eight is not really required to attend at one time. But the whole number would be required to assume duty in rotation, in relief of their colleagues, if the plan of the Trustees were adopted.

The medical gentlemen, however, with one exception, rejected the suggestion proposed to them.

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The Trustees believe it may be necessary to alter the rule according to their own judgement.

The present system does not work properly. The opinion of the Trustees coincides in this particular with that of the Inspector.

It is right, however, to add, that the want of due attention to the diet rolls, does not in any serious degree increase the expense of the Hospital.

The Trustees pressed the change upon the Staff as well, for the purpose of securing to many patients in the Hospital a daily visit of his Physician, so as to keep the unnecessary expenditure down.

CLEANLINESS AND ORDER.

Then as to the alleged want of cleanliness and order in the wards:—

The Trustees must express their surprise, that so serious a charge should have been made. They cannot suppose that the Inspector desired to misrepresent any thing, but they are sure, if he found the Hospital as he says he did, that he must have seen it at a time when from some singularly exceptional cause, the general condition of things was not, as it usually is, both cleanly and orderly. There are many ladies who visit the Hospital frequently in the course of the year, and at all hours of the day, who can testify to the cleanliness and order of the wards. They can speak with effect on these matters, for they do not make a hasty nor a single or cursory visit, and they would as housekeepers be especially prompt in discerning such defects as the Inspector has referred to, if they had found them.

But not only have these ladies neither seen nor spoken of any want of cleanliness and order, but they have on many occasions expressed themselves as much pleased with the cleanliness and good order which they observed. Many of them have, after their tour of the wards, said they were quite surprised at the cleanliness and order observed

throughout, and at the great comfort of and attention paid to the patients, as they had gone there under the impression, by some unknown means acquired, of matters being very differently conducted. Reference may be made to these ladies, and their names will be given to any one anxious for the truth, by the Lady-Superintendent, if it should be desired. It is extraordinary that there should be any prevailing notion of disorder, neglect and incompetency ruling in the Hospital, when it is considered that it is open every day of the year to all comers, who may get their information by direct personal observation, and whose attendance has been urgently invited at different times by the Trustees, for the very *purpose of seeing how everything is carried on.*

It would be but common fairness that those who condemn should first inform themselves of the facts on which they assume to pronounce judgment, and that a public charity, should not be impeached by what has been very vaguely, though quite safely called "a good many about Toronto." It may be asked who are the good many? What did they complain of? To whom and when did they complain? And what was done or what was desired to be done upon their complaint?

These matters must not be suggested, they must be spoken plainly out.

The administration of a public trust deserves plain and open dealing. The public are entitled to know all about their charities. If they are not well administered speak out, that enquiry may be made, and amendment obtained. The Trustees and other Hospital officials, do not ask and are not entitled to get any improper indulgence or forbearance; their conduct is open to, and they invite, enquiry. It is not fair to resort to suggestion or insinuation on the authority of so intangible a complainant as "a good many about Toronto."

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No complaint of any kind has ever been made to or of the Trustees or officials of the Hospital, excepting by the Inspector, and it is not likely that "a good many about Toronto" could have ever made any complaint of the kind without the knowledge of the Trustees. The complaint of the Inspector requires, of course, a special consideration. He visited the Hospital, as he says, on the 8th of December. That day was on Thursday. The Medical Resident-Superintendent, who had long been suffering from a severe illness, and who then had not quite recovered from it, was absent for a few days in the country. The Lady Superintendent and an assistant of the Medical Superintendent, were then in the Hospital. The Inspector did not ask for nor did he see the Lady Superintendent, who is the person principally answerable for the cleanliness and order of the wards and for the condition of the bedding.

If he had seen her, and shown to her, what it was he found fault with, it is very probable, and as the Trustees think, it is absolutely certain, that she could have given a most satisfactory account for the state of things, if they were as he represented them. He has said that the bedding in Male Wing ward was far from clean. The sheets and pillow cases in the wards are changed every Saturday morning, though in special cases, they have to be changed every day, and sometimes two or three times in the day; now the sheets cannot be expected to be quite so clean on Thursday after nearly a weeks' use, as they are on Saturday. Then again the sheets of an hospital must not be tested by those of a private family, nor even by those of a gaol or lunatic asylum or poor house, for in these cases the sheets are not subject to more than the ordinary use of them by occupants of the beds. But in the case of an Hospital, the sheets (and whether it be the newest and best of them or the oldest and worst, makes no difference,) are stained and discolored by all kinds of medical applications,

and by blood and ulcerous matter, and from other causes which it is manifest cannot be avoided from sick and weekly patients. These sheets though they may be and are carefully cleaned and purified, cannot have their stains or discolorations removed, nor can they be cast aside—they must continue to be used so long as they are fit for the purpose, for the sheeting is a costly item in Hospital expenditure, and if it continues to be used, it is plain, it will not look so well or so clean as an unstained article. Then let it be considered what class of persons many of those in the Hospital are. A class that it is difficult and in some cases impossible to make cleanly or to keep clean, and who are not very considerate as to the use they put any article to, whether of bedding or otherwise, which is not their own property. These stained sheets and pillow cases are appropriated chiefly to what is called the Blind ward, the very ward in which the Inspector said to the Hospital Medical Assistant, who was with him in his round, that the bedding was not clean, and of which he says in his Report that it was far from clean.

The ward in which the bedding was said not to have been clean, was in the Blind ward, *not in the Male Wing ward*, as he has stated. The Blind ward is the one in which the most uncleanly and most troublesome of the male patients are put, and in which the worst of the bedding is used. The bedding, however, is clean, all that can be said of it is that it has had more use, and worse use than that which is appropriated for the other wards.

During the last year, not less than 200 sheets have been rendered unserviceable by ill usage and stains, and have been given up for bandages, and at this moment a large supply of new sheeting is absolutely required. If the Inspector had enquired for, and had seen the Lady Superintendent, she could have informed him of all these matters, and we should not have had so serious a charge made

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against the management of the Hospital in this respect. If the blankets or coverlids be meant as having been uncleanly, and it must be difficult to save them altogether if the sheeting be treated so badly, the Trustees can only say, they were there as they are now, and as they may be seen any day in the year by any one who chooses to judge for himself. The coverlids are light colored and are in use night and day. In the Kingston Hospital, it is believed, the coverlids are used only during the day, and are removed at night. In Hamilton there are no light coverlids, and the blankets are all gray.

Gray blankets, as every one knows, show the effect of use or ill usage much less than white ones, such as are used in Toronto will. If there be uncleanness, imputed by the Inspector, in any other particular, the Trustees are not aware in what it consists or to what it refers.

It may be that at times an Hospital is not in the same orderly state that it usually is. The same may be said of a private residence. Let the case of a private family be taken, in which one of the members is sick. Is that sick room at all hours of the day in the same orderly condition which commonly distinguish it? Are there no arrangements to be made—this thing to be smoothed—that thing to be removed—another thing to be put on—chairs, tables to be placed in order—same sweeping or tidying to be done, before a visitor or even the doctor is introduced?

Now apply that to a large ward containing thirty or forty patients, of not the cleanest or most considerate class, and it will be evident that too much may be occasionally exacted of the public sick room, with a scanty force of nurses, when so much has to be done for the private sick room with its one patient, and all the family for nurses at command. The wards of the Hospital are open at all times, and to all respectable persons, and they are always in a good and orderly condition and fit for inspection. But if they are not so at any particular time the Trustees are sure the

occasion of it can be and will be found to be fully capable of the most satisfactory explanation. The Trustees now submit to every thinking and considerate person's mind, how far the hasty examination of an hour or so, of even the most careful and competent official, can be taken to be a correct representation of the true condition of affairs in the Hospital, opposed to the opinions of those persons whose opportunities for judging are so much better than his, or whose duties enable them to form at least as sound an opinion as it is possible for him to do.

The Trustees have not yet spoken of the special fitness of the Resident Medical Superintendent, Dr. Hampton, and of the Lady Superintendants for their respective places. They do not think it would be proper to close their observations on this part of the Report, without referring to them, as they are the persons most immediately interested in the charges which have been made.

These officials would not tolerate for a moment anything which was contrary to the rules of the house, and cleanliness and order by these rules, and with these officials, are virtues of the first consequences. They too are always on duty, they are never relieved from it (except in sickness,) night nor day. They have devoted themselves to the full and faithful discharge of their heavy duties, and they discharge them perfectly. In this recommendation the Trustees must also include the two very able and zealous Medical Assistants, Mr. Reed and Mr. Taylor.

It is a matter of concern then to the Trustees that those persons so adequately performing all that is required of them, and in whom they have the greatest confidence, should be charged without just cause, with neglect in matters of so much consequence as cleanliness and order in an institution of this kind.

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SERVICE OF MEALS.

As to the serving of the bread. It is charged that it is improper to serve to each patient his or her allowance for the day at one time, instead of half of it in the morning and the other half of it in the afternoon. It is, if a subject of importance at all, one most easily corrected. It is not, however, a merely speculative matter; it is one rather to be determined by the practical working and convenience of the custom. The patients do not complain, and never have complained of the practice, and on speaking with them on the subject but a few days ago, they say they do not wish it changed. Some of them say it is better as it is, others say it is not of the slightest consequence how it is, that they would as soon have it as it is now delivered, as any other way. Not one of them said the bread was ever left, because it had become "dry and unpalatable."

The Inspector does not himself say so.

He says, "Some patients leave it until it becomes dry and unpalatable." The patients, however do not say so. They do not leave it at all. There are not three pounds of bread carried out of any ward, of twenty-five or thirty patients, unconsumed, in the whole twenty-four hours.

If the patients do not wish any change to be made in the mode of service, it cannot be objectional, and if they do not leave any of it unconsumed, they cannot leave it because it has become dry and unpalatable. Some patients do not consume their full allowance of bread at times, but when they do not others do it for them, for there are always some in the wards who will eat more than their own share. There is no waste, not a particle of it, and there is not a patient who suffers or complains of this alleged objectional method of distributing the bread. The Trustees hope this will be deemed to be a sufficient answer to the charge to which it applies. Then, it is said by the Inspector, that the meals

are "better served" in the Kingston and Hamilton Hospitals, than they are in the Toronto Hospital. This the Trustees understood to mean, not that they are too well served in these places, but that they are not sufficiently well served in Toronto. This is an imputation of a very vague and unsatisfactory nature. The Trustees can only say, that there are nurses in the the Toronto Hospital, who were nurses in the Hamilton Hospital; one of them for two years, the other for nine months, and *they* say there is no difference that they know of in the mode of serving the meals in the two places, excepting that in Hamilton, half the allowance of bread is given in the morning and the the other half in the afternoon (and to that the Trustees have already referred,) and that the meat is divided in the kitchen, and carried up in separate plates to the patients, while in Toronto the meat is taken up uncut into the respective wards, and there carved to the different patients.

The Trustees suppose that it cannot be of much consequence whether the carving is done down stairs or up stairs. Of the two methods, they believe the up stairs one to be the best, and the most convenient. It is the best because the supply for each patient is warmer, and it is more convenient because a few large dishes are more readily handled than eighty or ninety small ones.

If, then, the dietaries in these Hospitals is quite as liberal as in the Toronto Hospital, which is some praise, though of the faintest kind, for the Toronto Hospital, in what does the "better service" in these Hospitals consist? In this Hospital everything is given in the usual manner, and in perfect cleanliness, by persons who are anxious to do everything that is beneficial to the patients.

The public may, at any time, visit the Hospital, and see in what manner the serving-up is done, and judge for themselves.

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The patients, again, have made no complaint in this respect, and they no doubt are better judges of what is best for them in such a case.

The Trustees have also been informed that the Inspector did not see anything but the common gruel allowance served up in the Toronto Hospital at the time of his visit, so that they are the more surprised at this disadvantageous comparison. The Trustees have been informed that the Inspector asked many of the patients how they were treated, and they informed him, one and all, that they were treated with great kindness and attention, and that they had no complaint to make. If so, why were these facts not communicated as to this Hospital as well as with respect to the Hamilton Hospital? Why, when so much has been said against the Toronto Hospital, was that which was favorable to it not told too? This mode of reporting is not satisfactory.

HOSPITAL PROPERTY.

The Report, in another respect, too, is not accurately made. It is not correct in its account and disposition of the property of this Hospital. And the account which is given of it is expressed, as in other instances, in a depreciatory and unfriendly manner. It is said the Hospital was endowed "with 386 acres of land in the east of the City. The site of the Old Hospital containing six acres, "and six acres of land west of Church, on Adelaide, Street, "with other valuable lots."

"The income received from property belonging to the Hospital last year amounted to \$5,204. The income derived from this source is all that is left of the magnificent endowment of 1819."

Now, one acre of the six acres of land west of Church Street, on Adelaide Street, though granted to the Hospital, was taken from it again in 1825, by the Crown, and given

to St. James's Church, which property the Trustees afterwards tried to recover, but failed to do so. The facts were fully reported in 6 Grant 485, in Chancery, and in appeal. 7 Grant 130, and in the Journals of the House of Assembly of U. C. of 1839-1840, vol. 1, part 1, fol. 313.

This accounts for the loss of a very valuable portion of the property. The Trustees are not aware of any other valuable lots which were granted to the Hospital than those named. There was, however, one valuable lot granted in 1835, containing one acre of land, on the south side of King street and west corner of York Street. A very large portion of the 386 acres of land at the east end of the City, and the whole of the 5 acres of the block on Adelaide Street, were disposed of many years ago, when property was not of much value. So it cannot be assumed that what would, if held at the present time, be a magnificent endowment, can now, with the present demand upon the fund, and the small sum got for so much of it in former times, be properly described as a "Magnificent Endowment." It certainly was so at the time of the grant, and it was thought it would have continued to be such for all time to come. But the income of \$5,204 is not all that is left of this Endowment. The Trustees have the Hospital building, and block on which it stands, less the Debenture debt of \$56,000 against it. And they have a large undisposed portion of the Old Hospital block, north of King Street and west of John street; and they have the capital fund, in the form of real estate, which represents the product of the \$5,104—which is really worth more than the product capitalized, though more cannot be procured for it at the present time. When the leases of such property come to be renewed, much more than the present yield for it will be obtained. The Trustees estimate the present value of their property, over and above their liabilities, at the sum of \$154,000, which is a very different account of

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the "Endowment" referred to in terms which indicate it as almost dissipated, according to the Report of the Inspector. All that remained in 1840 of the 386 acres was about \$24,000, representing all that was then outstanding and unpaid on account of sales made before that time, and an unsold portion which did not then exceed 25 acres. That unsold portion is still possessed by the Hospital. It has all been leased, and is yielding rent, though not a very large amount. The Report of the Committee at that time stated "that the principal fund has been very seriously intrenched upon, and if a similar system is pursued, in a few years the whole property will be entirely exhausted." But a similar system has not been pursued. All that did remain of the Endowment at that time remains still. It will not be parted with, but will be let on lease on terms beneficial to the Trust.

The fund would, however, have been much larger, if so great an expenditure had not been made on the present Hospital. It was, and yet is, larger than was or is required. The Trustees were providing too bountifully before the time. But let it not be supposed that the building will not be required, capacious as it is. Nor let it be supposed that the price of it has been thrown away. The building represents, in value, the cost of its erection. The rapidity in the growth of the City, and of the surrounding country, will yet (and within the present generation) tax its capacity to the utmost to provide for the necessities of the class for which it was founded. When that time arrives, the fund which yields now only \$5,104 will, with the letting of the vacant property still on hand, provide a rental three or four fold the amount of the present income, and that sum will enlarge with every successive renewal of lease. It cannot then be said that a fund which has erected so magnificent a building, and which consists of so large and so improving

a rental, is only \$5,104, and is all that "is left of the magnificent endowment of 1819."

The observation implies waste, misconduct and mismanagement of the Trust property. The principal of the fund was necessarily used for the purposes of the Hospital before 1840, as the Report of the Committee before referred to shows. Since that time the fund has been carefully preserved and enlarged.

The observation, too, made in this off-hand manner, may reflect on the present Trustees, who have been in office not yet three years, and one of them but one year—none of whom have had any hand in the diminution of the Trust.

If it was any part of the Inspector's duty to exclaim against the misappropriation of the Hospital Fund, he should have called for an account of the property granted to the Hospital, and of its disposition, and he would have spoken then with authority and effect.

The following memorandum will show generally in what manner the means of the Trust have been used in the building of the Hospital:

The cost of the erection of the Hospital has	
been, to date	\$95,805 54
Interest on Debentures	52,398 00
Debentures redeemed.....	8,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$156,203 54

To meet this expenditure there has been:

Proceeds of Debentures (\$64,000).....	\$60,698 00
Sale of Bank Stock.....	15,054 00
Received on account of sales.....	14,560 00
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\$90,312 00

Which leaves a balance of..... \$65,891 54

Which has been paid out of the ordinary resources of the Institution.

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The Trustees have also made advantageous purchases of property, which yield profitable returns; and they have also erected several houses, which are all under lease.

The Trustees feel aggrieved by the Report of the Inspector in the parts of it to which they have referred. They have answered the charge of extravagance which he properly made against them upon the erroneous figures which were given to him. And they hope, as they believe, they have fully established their economical management in all matters on which they can exercise their own independent judgement. They believe also that they have satisfactorily answered the other charges, objections and observations which have been unjustly made against them, and against the Hospital which they represent; charges which must operate greatly to the injury of the institution, unless they are promptly and effectually answered.

The Trustees have been obliged to meet these charges. They desired to do no more than to meet them. They have no wish to make any unjust comparisons, nor to reflect unnecessarily on any one. Their purpose has been defensive merely. The public had the right to require of them, as representatives of so important a charity, some explanation by way of answer to the serious charges which have been laid officially against them, or that they should surrender the Trust which, it is imputed, they have not fitly administered.

By order of the Board.

J. W. BRENT,
Secretary.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
Toronto, 14th Jan., 1871.

The Trustees regret they have not been able to publish their answer at an earlier day.