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AULD BROS

Charlottetown 'April 181899—2k&wk

THE MORNING GUARDIAN.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28 1899.

THE INSANE HOSPITAL.

A writer in the Examiner of yesterday boldly charges that the patients in the Lunatic Hospital are treated in a shameful and cruel manner. This writer, claiming to be a witness of what he affirms, makes the following among other statements.—

"The food is not fit to be eaten. The porridge is in a filthy condition from mice being in the meal. The milk is full of dirty grounds, and very often the meat is so bad that some of the patients refuse to eat it. The food is often served about half cooked, boiled turnips often so raw that they are hard to cut when served; porridge often raw and with lumps of oatmeal appearing through it. The patients in many ways are neglected, some patients who are sick or not able to eat the common food that is served are very often neglected. When they have an attendant who takes an interest in their welfare and provides them with proper food and good care they get it—otherwise they would in many cases want and suffer great misery."

In addition it is charged that some patients are confined during winter in rooms that are extremely cold—so cold that when the rooms are being cleaned the water freezes on the floor; and that in other cases the windows have so much open space about them that the rain and snow blow in upon the patients while in their beds. It is also charged that "the basement was in a most filthy and sickening condition for months from a swarm of useless and dirty cats."

THE GUARDIAN is far from assuming that the above charges are true in detail. It sometimes happens that persons make grave charges against a public institution which charges have little or no foundation. So we trust it may be found in this case. But seeing the charges have been made in this public manner, calculated to create grave distrust in the public mind, and to give the greatest pain and anxiety to those who have friends in the Asylum, such charges ought to be met and refuted in a convincing manner.

Experience in other provinces has often proved that the official visits of commissioners to lunatic hospitals are of little use in ascertaining the actual condition of things within the walls. Such visits are either made at stated times, or those in charge have knowledge of the time when a visit is to be made, and everything is ready for inspection when the commissioners put in an appearance. The possibility that a searching inspection may be made at any time would tend to better management and care and such unexpected visits are provided for in a neighboring province, where great abuses in connection with the lunatic asylum once existing have been mainly remedied.

Beyond all others the insane have a claim upon our protection and care. They have been described as "the most helpless of God's creatures." Apart altogether from the charges above referred to we have long felt that the insane of Prince Edward Island have been most inadequately cared for. We fear that the worst has not been hitherto known in regard to their case.

Complaint reaches us that when violators of the Scott Act are prose- cuted to conviction and fines imposed little or no effort is made to collect the fines, and thus illegal selling is permitted to be carried on with impunity. This complaint comes from more than one part of the Island. The latest has reference to the conviction of Mrs. Jane Cairns of Cape Travers. A correspondent who writes in reference to this has apparently very little hope that the fine will be collected, and intimates that two previous fines against the same delinquent are yet standing. Perhaps Prosecutor Carruthers will explain.

The temperance people of Brome county, where the Scott Act was recently repealed, are by no means disposed to permit the granting of liquor licenses. The municipal council, if a majority of that body are so disposed, may refuse to permit the issue of any licenses within the county. But if the municipal council should fail of its duty in that particular it will still be practicable for the electors of any town, township, parish or incorporated village to call for a vote on the question of prohibiting the sale of liquors within such town, parish &c. In such voting the majority decides. Under this plan it is hoped and intended to exclude the iniquitous license system from the greater part, if not the whole of Brome county, notwithstanding the loss of the Scott Act. It is under the operation of the same law that more than 600 of the 900 municipal divisions of Quebec are now closed against liquor licenses.

The Examiner now says it is not in favor of the Farquharson license law, "which besides being crude and inefficient, is unfair and wrong, in that it imposes a special tax upon citizens only for the special benefit of the Province, apart from the City." But the Examiner does not object to the principle of license, producing revenue, which is the distinguishing feature of the Farquharson Act. The Examiner condemns the "desertion of principle" by the Premier, but this condemnation must be without force if the principle of the license bill is right. It is always permissible to turn from a wrong principle or course to a right one, just as it is always reprehensible to turn from a right principle or course to a wrong one. The Examiner's articles of two days in succession, and of yesterday not less than the day before must be read as excusing the central principle of the License Act.

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AULD BROS
Charlottetown 'April 181899—2k&wk

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Black silk and Wool Grenadines, one costume, 6 yds, \$8.10, one costume, 6 yds, \$10.80

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