

the attempt to draw such a line of demarcation between acute and chronic cases, could not fail to be fraught with the worst results to the latter class.

The Government of the late Province of Canada formally recognized the expediency of having two classes of Insane Asylums, Orillia Asylum being in the first instance intended by them as an Asylum for *chronic cases* only; and the philanthropic and enlightened State of Massachusetts has also carried out the plan on a large scale by establishing at Tenkesbury in that State an "Experimental Institution for Incurable and Harmless State Paupers."* We await with confidence the result of this experiment.

PRIVATE ASYLUMS FOR PAYING PATIENTS.

Private Asylums for paying Patients, distinct and separate from the general Asylums, are still a *desideratum* in the Provinces of Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

In the Province of Quebec, indeed, there is a small private Asylum, near Quebec, known as "The Belmont Retreat."

This establishment is pleasantly situated about three miles from the city of Quebec, and is the property of Mr. Wakeman, very favorably known as the efficient steward for many years of the Beauport Asylum.

The inspectors of asylums and prisons have frequently in their reports recommended the establishment of separate Asylums for paying patients, on the understanding, however, that such private Asylums should be in the immediate neighbourhood of some of the large Asylums, and under the control of the medical superintendents of those institutions.

In their report for 1867, the inspectors observe. "It is indeed a reproach to the wealthy and enlightened Province of Ontario, that up to the present moment, it has not taken thought to make suitable provision within its borders for the treatment of pay patients of the better class." "We are often," says Dr. Litchfield, "consulted in difficult and pressing cases in regard to patients of a higher class, whose friends seek better accommodation (than the ordinary Asylums present) for which they are quite willing to pay, and who have to look for accommodation in the neighbouring Republic which is not to be found in the Dominion." The result of the present system is that those unfortunate creatures are placed among strangers, almost beyond the reach of their relations and friends, at a greatly increased cost, and further, that the country loses the benefit of the contributions which they would otherwise make towards the maintenance of a necessary expensive class of public institutions.

INEBRIATE ASYLUMS.

The necessity and propriety of legislation with a view to authorize the temporary confinement of confirmed drunkards in institutions specially adapted for their treatment, has, during the past five or six years, been much discussed in Canada. †

The Provincial Synod of the Church of England, during their recent session at Montreal, passed a resolution commending this important subject to the earnest attention of the Local Governments, with whom rests the right to legislate in the matter.

The degrading vice of intemperance is, unhappily, but too prevalent in Canada, and every well wisher of his country would rejoice to see erected in our midst, under proper statutory regulations, Asylums for inebriates, not merely as a means of reclaiming and restoring to society some at least of the unfortunate victims of intemperance, but also a "visible protest of society against intemperance" a warning and beacon to those commencing the downward career of drunkenness.

The only institution in the Dominion intended for the treatment of inebriates, so far as the writer of this article is aware, is a private establishment near Quebec, known as "The Belmont Retreat." This institution has already been referred to in the preceding article on Private Asylums.

* The word "incurable" should, we think, be carefully omitted in the designation of these institutions.

† See an elaborate and exhaustive pamphlet by Dr. Bovell, of Toronto, entitled, "Plea for Inebriate Asylums," 1863.