

regretted that little attempt was made to educate the illiterate and criticized the treatment of the insane prisoners. They considered the buildings in which such prisoners are housed unsuitable and condemned the punishments inflicted. They recommend that a competent alienist should be employed by the Government, and that suitable permanent arrangements should be made for the care of the insane. In Western Canada the provincial governments take care of the criminal insane, and the Commissioners consider that this might be arranged in Eastern Canada, although such action might meet with some disfavour; a separate institution might be provided for such defectives. The practice of "cellular feeding" and certain punishments still in vogue in the prison were also condemned by the Commissioners, who recommend that prisoners should be classified; that first offenders should be sent to reformatories and only the older and more hardened prisoners sent to the State prison; and that prisoners should be given healthful, interesting, and profitable work, which would enable them to gain an honest livelihood when they went into the world again. It is recommended also that prisoners should be paid for their labour, and that their wages should go towards the maintenance of their families. The Commissioners strongly recommend the establishment of a penitentiary commission of three members to organize the prisons, make regulations for their management, and select the officers, who would be held responsible for results. In Toronto improvements are to be made. The present gaol is to be closed in November, 1915. A new central police station will be built, which will contain police head quarters, men's, women's, and children's courts, and cells for transfers on remand. Upon commitment, all prisoners will be removed to one of the several institutions—men's industrial farm, women's industrial farm, central prison, juvenile home, or insane detention home.

THE NEW ROYAL COLUMBIAN HOSPITAL.

The new Royal Columbian Hospital at New Westminster, British Columbia, was formally opened in May. The building is four stories and contains accommodation for over two hundred patients. The hospital was first established in 1862.

LICENCE TO PRACTISE IN ALBERTA.

The autumn examinations for licence to practise in Alberta will be held at the University of Alberta, commencing on September 15th. The examination fee is \$50 and applications, with matriculation certificate and graduation diploma, should be sent to the Registrar, University of Alberta, Edmonton South, Alberta, on or before August 15th next.

Ireland.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.]

THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

LAST week an Inspector of the Local Government Board held an inquiry in Dublin into the application made by the City Council for sanction for loans for clearing insanitary areas, erection of artisans' dwellings, etc. The scheme was one for clearing four areas in the city already condemned as insanitary. The cost of the scheme was nearly £300,000, and provided for the erection of 800, 98, and 180 dwellings, having from four to two rooms each. The cost in three of the areas was approximately £175,000, £27,000, and £39,000 respectively. The scheme was opposed on the ground that the rents to be charged—7s. to 3s. 6d.—were higher than could be paid by the class of people for whom the houses are intended, and that as a consequence the rents would have to be lowered, with a consequent deficit to be made up by an increase of the rates, which are already about 11s. in the £.

The Corporation's total expenditure on housing schemes up to the present has been £350,000, with a total burden on the ratepayers of £10,000 a year. The ratepayers and civic reformers were ably represented on the inquiry, and their objections to the proposed schemes were radical and far-reaching. They urged that the schemes perpetuated overcrowding, that they were piecemeal and unmethodical,

fitting into no plan of civic development, that they would be a further burden on the rates, and finally that the whole problem could be solved efficiently and far more cheaply on different lines. They did not object to the clearing of the insanitary areas, but to their immediate repopulation on a scale of still injurious density; they protested against large expenditure on schemes which will create new slum problems for a new generation of citizens. The recent Departmental Committee's report recommended the removal of a considerable part of the slum population to cheap houses on virgin soil in the outskirts of the city. The Corporation's schemes ignored this recommendation and did not meet the arguments—social and economic—on which it was based. Sir Charles Cameron, in his evidence, said he would like to see half the houses in the city rebuilt. He totally disagreed with the suggestion to build the new houses on the outskirts of the city; there were no such waste places in English and Scottish cities as there were in Dublin, and if these waste spaces were allowed to remain the city would become a desert. Referring to one of the particular districts under consideration, he said, in all such areas the death-rate was always high, but that it did not depend so much upon the fact that people lived in one room as on their extreme poverty.

The Inspector made an order in regard to three of the areas, giving the Corporation power to acquire and clear them, but leaving open the ultimate use to which the sites might be put. He refused the order in the case of the fourth scheme.

Last week Mr. Henry Murphy, Local Government Board Inspector, held an inquiry, at Fermoy, into the application of the Urban Council for a loan of £4,580 to erect twenty cottages under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts. Evidence was given of the great necessity for the erection of the houses. At least 100 houses would be necessary. The inspector said he would make his report as soon as possible.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL FOR NEWRY PORT.

At a meeting of the Newry Port Sanitary Authority last week it was decided to ask the town surveyor to prepare a plan and estimate of costs for the provision of an isolation hospital for sea-borne cases of infectious disease on Rough Island, about four miles from Newry.

Scotland.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.]

OBJECTIONS TO A PROPOSED TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL.

MR. C. E. GREEN of Liberton has published in the *Scotsman* newspaper for July 2nd the correspondence which has passed between him and Mr. Walter Macgregor, Secretary to the Longmore Hospital for Incurables, Edinburgh, regarding the proposed transference of the phthisis and tuberculous cases from the hospital in the city to the Liberton Cottage Hospital, or rather to an extension of it, in ground purchased at Stenhouse. Mr. Green stated that this ground is contiguous to five dairies, and that whilst the nearest one (with 35 cows) is within a hundred yards, two others are within two hundred yards, and the remaining two not further away than four hundred yards. Furthermore, the Alnwick Hill filter beds (covering many acres), which play so important a part in the water supply of Edinburgh, are only 500 yards distant, and are frequented by gulls and water fowl which roam over the surrounding lands; the filter beds drain into a burn which runs through a corner of the hospital grounds. Dr. Guthrie's industrial school with its many boys is also close at hand. Mr. Macgregor in his reply referred to the fact that adequate precautions are now taken to prevent the spread of tuberculosis from one person to another, to the ease with which tubercle bacilli are killed by fresh air and sunlight, and to the mode of construction of the Liberton Cottage Hospital. It is doubtful, however, whether these statements will reassure public opinion in Liberton which has been somewhat shaken by the proposal, and one awaits a more authoritative pronouncement from one or other of the medical officers who have to do with the city and county to allay anxiety. A good deal of publicity has recently been given to investigations regarding tubercle bacilli in the milk