

# Canada Medical Journal.

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MONTREAL, JANUARY, 1865.

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Ere this number reaches our readers the year 1864 will have passed away. During its passage our *Journal* was started at the urgent solicitation of many practitioners who felt the want then existing, for the establishment of a medical periodical, which it was hoped would receive the support of the entire fraternity, and become the organ of the medical profession in Canada. On our part we promised no effort would be wanting to make the *Canada Medical Journal* worthy of support. Six numbers have already been issued, and they are sufficient to illustrate how far we have kept our pledge. To those who have contributed original communications we give our hearty thanks, and trust that in future they will not forget us. We appeal, to those who have not favored us yet, we trust not in vain, for some records from their experience. With regard to the success that has attended our efforts, we can only state that our subscription list is amply large to repay our expenses, provided there are no defaulters. With these few remarks we heartily wish our readers a very happy new year and all the compliments of the season.

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It appears that the proposal, contained in a former number of this journal, to establish an officer of health for our city, is likely to miscarry; it is a suggestion which sooner or later must be entertained.

We have alluded to the imperfections existing in our system of registering births, marriages, and deaths. As the law at present applies, a person can pass through all three stages without the evidence of his very existence appearing on our records. This is an assertion which may at first stagger the reader, but it is nevertheless true in every particular. There is no law rendering it obligatory on all physicians, midwives, or parents to register the birth of a child within a given period; and were it not from respect to the teachings of religion, one half the children born would never be enregistered; as it is, many children are baptized whose names never appear in the public register, a fact of significant importance,