

THE Canadian Practitioner

A SEMI-MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS
OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES.

Contributions of various descriptions are invited. We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere current medical news of general interest.

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MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER OF TORONTO.

At last, after many weary months, Toronto has found a Medical Health Officer. Considerable interest has been manifested in the matter, a good deal of canvassing has been done, and the result shows that the unexpected has happened, as is so frequently the case; and, in the language of the sporting fraternity, "a dark horse has won." As will be seen in our personal columns, the new officer is Dr. Norman Allen, a young graduate who has been practising in Toronto for about four years. As to his fitness for the position, we know but little. His record thus far has been creditable as a student and a practitioner. While in England he paid some attention to the study of hygiene, though perhaps not so much as one of the candidates for the position.

Probably it is safe to say that Dr. Allen would not have been the choice of the majority of the profession of Toronto, simply because his capacities are, to a certain extent, an unknown quantity, especially as to administrative abilities. He has, however, many friends and practically no enemies. He is likely to enter upon his duties with the sympathy of the mass of the profession and the general public. We hope and believe the physicians of the city will cheerfully support him in his heavy undertaking. The loyal support of his professional brethren would be an immense assistance to him in various ways, and there is every indication that he will receive it.

The appointment is one of the most important that has ever been made in Toronto. The salary is too small. This fact has been felt

rather keenly by the profession. The new officer has an opportunity to make for himself a great reputation. The responsibilities will be heavy, but the possibilities of distinction are great, and if he rises equal to the occasion he must, in time, receive proper remuneration for his work. We cheerfully extend congratulations and wish Dr. Allen success in the highest degree.

THE SPRING EXAMINATIONS.

This is a busy and anxious time for medical students. The dreaded examinations are at hand, and the results of the same are, for the time being, the all-important consideration for the trembling candidates. It is unfortunate that some of the examinations should commence as early as the middle of March. The sessions, as prescribed, are surely short enough; but when large portions are deducted from both extremities and the centre, they occasionally become abbreviated to a rather alarming extent.

Are the certificates of attendance from some of our medical colleges absolutely worthless? Are they sometimes positively dishonest? Are students sometimes registered after Christmas—say about the middle of January—with the assurance that they will receive certificates for attendance on lectures for a full session, when in reality it is not possible to attend longer than about two months?

Perhaps the Medical Council, in deliberating on changes in their curriculum, might consider the question of bogus certificates. But rumors say that members of the Council have a pretty good idea that such irregularities do occur, and are inclined to ignore such trifling matters. This is not altogether correct, as they have endeavored to put a stop to such dishonesty, of which both the authorities and students of some colleges are guilty, by requiring from candidates statements under oath respecting their attendance during the different sessions. Either the form of declaration is at fault, or some of the students are guilty of rather serious offences against the laws.

THE WATER SUPPLY OF TORONTO.

The grumblers in our wonderfully prosperous city, if other things fail, can always fall back on the subject of the water supply. Many thou-