

THE CANADA LANCET.

A Monthly Journal of Medical and Surgical Science.

Issued Promptly on the First of each Month.

Communications solicited on all Medical and Scientific subjects, and also Reports of Cases occurring in practice. Advertisements inserted on the most liberal terms. All Letters and Communications to be addressed to the "Editor Canada Lancet," Toronto.

AGENTS.—DAWSON BROS., Montreal; J. & A. McMillan, St. John. N.B.; Geo. Street & Co., 30 Cornhill, London, Eng.; M. H. Mahler, 16 Rue de la Grange Bateliere, Paris.

TORONTO, JULY 1, 1879.

NATIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

Our medical friends in the House of Commons have not yet succeeded in pressing upon the Dominion Government the propriety of establishing a national Board of Health. Although this is one of the most important subjects which can claim the attention of our legislators, it has not yet received that consideration which its very great importance demands. Amidst the conflicting interests of political parties, it seems almost impossible to arouse any lively interest in anything outside of the narrow circle of party politics. This is one great question, however, upon which all parties might meet on a common platform, and, setting aside for the time all other considerations, address themselves to the great question of national health.

The United States Congress with praiseworthy solicitation for the health and lives of the people, has recently confirmed an act for the establishment of a National Board of Health, which must be regarded as the most important measure that has, up to the present time, been adopted in the United States. The act consists of four sections. The first section provides for the establishment of a National Board of Health, to consist of eleven members. Seven are appointed by the President with the advice of the Senate, and are to receive two dollars a day with reasonable expenses during the time they are actually engaged in the duties of their office. The remaining four members are to consist of a medical officer each, of the army and navy, a medical officer of the marine hospital service, and one officer of the Department of Justice; these members receive no compensation. The second section determines the duties of the Board, in matters affecting the public health, the obtaining

of information and advising the departments of the government and the executives of the several States. The third and fourth sections require that the Board of Health, with the assistance of the Academy of Sciences, which is to co-operate with it, shall report to Congress at its next session, a full statement of its proceedings, and also a plan for a national health organization after consultation with the principal sanitary organizations and sanitarians of the several States. Special attention is also to be given to the subject of quarantine, both maritime and inland. The sum of fifty thousand dollars has been appropriated for the expenses of the board, and the carrying out of the purposes of the act.

The government and the people of the United States are to be congratulated upon the course which they have taken in the important matter of public health, and we trust that the Canadian Government will follow their good example.

The members of the National Board of Health, recently appointed, are as follows: Drs. S. H. Beemis, New Orleans; Bowditch, Boston; Stephen Smith, New York; H. A. Johnston, Chicago; I. L. Cabell, Virginia; T. S. Verdi, Washington; R. W. Mitchell, Memphis; Dr. Hamilton, Marine Hospital service; Drs. J. S. Billings and Grinnell of the army and navy, and Gen. Phillips of the Department of Justice.

THE McDOWELL MONUMENT.

The dedication of the monument to the memory of Dr. Ephraim McDowell the father of ovariotomy took place at Danville, Ky., on the 14th of May. The funds for the erection of the monument were subscribed solely by members of the medical profession of the State of Kentucky. There was an immense concourse of people present, among whom were Prof. Gross of Philadelphia, Dr. Sayre, President of the American Medical Association, Dr. Kimble, of Massachusetts, Dr. Gibney, Dr. Vandell, Dr. L. P. Blackburn, and the Governor and Secretary of the State. Letters were also received from Drs. Spencer Wells, Bryant, Thornton, Thomas, Richardson, Parvin, and Holmes.

The oration was delivered by Prof. Gross, whose services had been secured upon the death of Dr. Washington Atlee, who had been chosen to deliver the address. The oration will be published in the