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OLD SERIES.	MONTREAL, 15TH DEC., 1892.	NEW SERIES
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The Militia Medical Service.

We are devoting this number very largely to the Association of Militia Medical officers, and to that branch of the service its members represent. It is a department to which far too little attention has been paid in the past; but it is confidently expected that the labours of the Association will bear good fruit in the removal of the obstacles which stand in the way of our having a thoroughly efficient medical staff, one ready in every detail for whatever contingency may arise.

The New Minister of Militia.

The Cabinet has again undergone a shuffle of portfolios, and that of Militia and Defence has fallen to the Hon. John Colebrooke Patterson, formerly Secretary of State. While it is much to be regretted that the experience and personal inspection of the principal stations just completed by the late Minister is practically lost to the force, the members of the militia will not, we feel confident, let anything stand in the way of a hearty welcome to the new chief. We sincerely trust that he will set himself to examine carefully the present condition of the force, and, although he cannot fail to be appalled at its deficiencies in modern arms and equipment, he will, we hope, not lose courage but set himself to work with a will to make the Canadian militia a credit to the country so far as lies in his power. We want first and foremost, a rifle of modern make and efficient at long ranges; we want an equipment with which a few corps in each district could go to the front at a moment's notice should occasion demand; we want the rates of pay increased in proportion to length of service so that there be some inducement to men to remain a few years, instead of dropping out after each camp; and we want to see an increased amount of practical encouragement to shooting, both in the artillery and infantry; especially is this wanted in the permanent infantry corps where the use of their only weapon has been grossly neglected. These are a few of the many urgent wants of the militia, and the new Minister has an excellent chance of making his *regime* the most beneficial one to the force since the Department was established.

Medico-Military Literature in Canada.

Of early military surgery in Canada there is little on record except in the way of detached references and anecdotes such as given in the works of Col. Landmann, Dr. Dunlop and other travellers; extracts from some of these are given in other parts of this paper. The duties of medical officers in the old days were unusually severe, and, until placed on the half-pay, they had little leisure for writing other than professional reports; the general want of knowledge of simple sanitary laws on the part of the rank and file, the absence of anesthetics, the deficiencies in medical stores, lack of means of transport of stores and of the sick and wounded, combined to render the position of a regimental surgeon on active service one of unrelenting work and anxiety.

The war of 1812-15—the most important military event to Canadians since the conquest—produced works on its medical aspect from surgeons in both armies. It is creditable to the Americans that the volume emanating from their army was not only issued first but is by far the more exhaustive and complete. It is entitled:

“Medical sketches of the campaign of 1812, 1813, and 1814; to which are added Surgical cases; Observations on Military Hospitals; and Flying Hospitals attached to a Moving Army. By James Mann, M. D., Hospital Surgeon of the Army, etc. Dedham (Mass.) 1816.”

The work deals, of course, with only the American army, and with the country through which it passed in its various marches; but many items of interest to the historian as well as to the surgeon are given, and the whole work is very creditable. When, however, the author leaves the safe ground of professional experiences and flounders into military detail, he becomes grossly bombastic and inaccurate. The only British medical authority who devotes much space to the war and its *locale*, is Dr. John Douglass, who served, during the period in question, in the 8th “King’s” Foot. His work is entitled “The Medical Topography of Upper Canada,” and, while of no little interest, is much smaller and less complete than Dr. Mann’s work.

Of later writers, first place must be given to Dr. Henry, formerly of the 66th Foot, whose very interesting reminiscences contain considerable information on medical matters up to fifty years ago. The Fenian Raids of 1866 and 1870 were too insignificant to demand anything more than official reports; but the medical and surgical details of the North-West campaign of 1885, deserved a better fate, and were of sufficient importance to merit a volume—either from one of the many able surgeons who took part in the affair or a symposium, embodying the observations of those who held the chief medical commands. Such a work could not fail to be of great value to the service.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE :

SIR,—Your Kingston correspondent alludes to certain punishments recently awarded to cadets at the R. M. C. for breaches of discipline as being unduly severe. I cannot help thinking that the officer who investigated the case is the best judge as to what sentence should be passed on the offender, he having heard the evidence, which your correspondent certainly did not. As for his reference to punishment given *years ago*, I consider that a revival of matters long forgotten, and which can do no good but wound the tenderest feelings of those concerned is most contemptible and uncalled for. His intentions may be good, but it is unfair to benefit some to the detriment of others.

A READER.