

of the college men are swept away, the representatives will be more evenly balanced.

A few unimportant changes have been made in the curriculum, which will come into force after June, 1885. One of these has reference to graduates in arts, who were formerly allowed one year's time in the medical course. This regulation was originally intended to give encouragement to young men to take an arts course prior to entering the study of medicine, and was in our opinion a very wise provision. We would therefore regret very much to see the above-named change carried into effect.

### JAMES JOHN DICKINSON, M.D.

The subject of the following sketch, whose death occurred on the 10th of May, was born in Cornwall, Ont., in the year 1819. He was the son of Noah Dickinson, M.D., who was a pioneer and a member of an old family of U. E. Loyalists. He received his early education in the famous Grammar school of the town. On arriving at his majority he joined the active militia, in which he served seven years, rising to the rank of ensign. He was present at the battle of Windmill Point and other engagements. In 1842 he began the study of medicine in McGill University, where he graduated in 1846. He at once volunteered to go to Grosse Isle in attendance upon the *ship fever* patients. In the autumn of 1847 he returned to Cornwall, commenced practice, and in 1850 married the daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Mountain, rector of Trinity church.

Dr. Dickinson never lost sight of his attachment to the military service, to which the years of youth were devoted. He organized and for years commanded a troop of yeoman cavalry, of which he was Major, entitling him to the rank of Lieut.-Col. in the militia. He was for two years Reeve of Cornwall, was always a staunch Conservative and a respected brother of the Masonic Order, his remains being interred with the honors of the craft. Dr. Dickinson remained in the active practice of his profession up to the close of 1879, at which time he handed over many of his responsibilities to his partner, C. J. Hamilton, M.D., of Goderich, who subsequently became his son-in-law and who has now succeeded to his extensive practice. Like all men of fearless temperament, Dr. Dickinson

acquired many pronounced enemies, as he did hosts of admiring friends. He was a leader in his profession and an ornament to it, and his death is deeply regretted by all who knew him, professionally or socially.

### ROBERT STEPHEN, M.D.

We very much regret to announce the death of Dr. Robert Stephen, of Digby, N.S., on the 20th of April, at the age of 76 years. Dr. Stephen was born in Elgin, Scotland, and emigrated to Canada in 1835. He attended lectures in the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, and was soon after appointed surgeon to one of Sir Alexander Bannerman's ships during a voyage of two years to the Arctic Ocean. On his return he practised a short time in Elgin, prior to his emigration to this country. At the solicitation of a number of the inhabitants, through the late James H. FitzRandolph, he settled in Digby, where he continued to practise his profession up to the time of his death. He was a member of the Nova Scotia Medical Society and coroner of the county of Digby for the past thirty years. During the long course of his professional life he had outlived all his early contemporaries, and had acquired a host of friends, who well appreciated the native kindness which underlaid his apparently brusque demeanor. Firm and decided in his opinions and views, he fearlessly maintained what he considered was the right, with all the energy of his character. Deceased was the father of R. W. Stephen, Esq., of the Senate Staff, Ottawa.

**SODIUM SALICYLATE IN UTERINE AFFECTIONS.**—M. Balette, in an article on this subject in *Bull. Gen. de Thérap.*, states that this remedy in ordinary doses allays the pains of dysmenorrhœa, probably by its sedative action on the central nervous system. It also promotes the menstrual flow, and in some cases provokes its re-appearance. In four instances, in large doses, it was followed by abortion, but moderate doses seem to have no tendency to act as an abortifacient. No oxytocic effect was ever observed in experiments on animals. Nevertheless, the caution is added that it should never be given during gestation, except on very precise