

the text of which appears at page 301, was adopted at the ensuing session of the Conference, February 1st.

At this meeting, Hon. Mr. Angers, Minister of Agriculture, was present, and presided.

This concluded the work of the Conference, with reference to preparing defences against cholera. A special session was, however, devoted to considering the best means of providing for the collection, compilation, and publication of the vital statistics of the Dominion. The conclusions arrived at by the Conference on this important subject will be found attached to the report.

THE DEBATE ON THE MILITIA MEDICAL SERVICE.

The report of the debate on the militia estimates in the House of Commons contains food for thought for the medical profession. It is quite apparent that the medical service has received no consideration whatever at the hands of the Department, for, in answer to a question as to medical supplies, Surgeon-General Bergin stated that he "had not been consulted since 1885." It is almost incredible that so important a branch of the public service should be treated with such utter indifference. Mr. Lister said, during the debate: "It is notorious that the medicines furnished to the different battalions are of such a kind as to call forth complaints and protests from medical officers. Although the ex-Minister of Militia promised over and over again that this matter would be rectified, no steps were taken to remedy the things complained of by the medical gentlemen connected with the different regiments. I ask the Minister now, whose duty it is to furnish this medicine, from whom it is procured; is it by contract, and on whose requisition? If there is a Surgeon-General, he ought to be the man to make the requisition, and upon him ought to rest the responsibility. If he is not consulted at all, and if some under-strapper in office undertakes to deal with it, I want to know it." The Minister of Militia replied: "There is a military hospital chest furnished from headquarters to each camp, and the surgeon in charge may supplement that with any article he requires upon requisition." Mr. Lister: "That is

not correct; surgeons have told me that they have had to pay for the medicines themselves."

Dr. Borden said: "For over twenty years I have been in the active militia of this country, and the difficulty which has been referred to, has been experienced by me during all that time. A box of drugs is sent into camp. *It is largely useless, containing things that are no good, and lacking things which are wanted.* I have made half a dozen reports, but *not the slightest attention has been paid to them*; and my brother surgeons have informed me that their requisitions have met with the same fate. During camp I have sent for medicines which were urgently required, and I have had the greatest difficulty to get them paid for. In one case the D.A.G. and myself divided the cost of getting medicines between us, because it was impossible to get them out of the Department."

This journal has stated all along that the condition of the medical service is disgraceful, but we did not think it was quite as bad as the debate has shown it to be. The Government can rest assured that we will keep the medical affairs of the Department of Militia before the profession until such time as justice is done, and the citizen soldiers of Canada are treated with common humanity.

BICHLORIDE OF GOLD CURE.

A circular has been sent through the post, and, from what can be learned, it has been sent out generally to physicians in the city. To address a circular to medical men, advocating the claims of an institution which hopes to derive its income from the treatment of patients by some secret method, is an act of the supremest impudence. It is about time that medical men everywhere put down their foot, with lion sternness, on all such plans of benefiting their fallen and unfortunate fellowmen. If this bichloride of gold cure company has anything worthy of note, let it give it to the public, and make known the full nature of the treatment before it asks for the favour and patronage of the medical profession. It is surprising that any reputable physician could be found to take charge of an institution professing to cure patients by some secret remedy. Does such an act render a medical man liable to have his name removed from the register of those entitled to practise? If