

wish to compete may have the opportunity, and the public may be well served by the man with the best qualifications being chosen. We venture to say that few, if any, outside of Toronto knew of the vacancy. The appointments of resident physicians or surgeons should be open to young graduates who have been good clinical students. If the appointments were made without salary, and tenable for one or two years, the assistant resident succeeding the retiring resident, a much better system would be inaugurated, hard working students would be benefitted, the hospital would be well managed, and the people would be the gainers by having practical men as their medical advisers. A Bill is at present before the Local Legislature to amend the Act with regard to hospitals. We hope that both in the interests of the public and in the interests of the profession, our representatives will see that provision is made for the proper advertising of vacancies in the staff. The system we advocate works well in Great Britain, New York, and Montreal, and there is no reason why it should not be adopted here.

THE MALE URETHRA.—Sir Henry Thompson, in a lecture delivered November 15th (*Lancet*, November 27th) says of the urethra :

First, let me assure you that the urethra is not a tube at all, in any sense in which we employ that word. It is not like a gaspipe, or an India-rubber tube, or even a flaccid tube of any membrane whatever.

It is rather *a continuous closed valve, capable of transmitting fluids and solids in one direction only, and transmitting nothing whatever in the opposite direction, except in obedience to applied force*. Its length in the male makes us think of it as a tube, but this is a mere accident of sex. An inch or less is amply long enough for its urinary function, as in the female ; and all the length it possesses above that is quite useless as a *urethra*, and renders it liable to disease and accident—the price, and a heavy one, let me tell you, which the male pays for his specially distinguishing feature. In illustration of this, I have but to refer you to the innumerable difficulties and dangers associated with stricture, retention of urine, and calculus, which are

almost unknown in the other sex. It is, then, in the male, simply a long valvular chink, traversing soft and most delicate vascular and nervous tissues, always firmly closed, and never opening except for a few seconds, during which fluids have to be transmitted from the body. Then, for a few seconds, it is distended more or less, and becomes a tube if you please, for this short time and this only, equaling, perhaps, at most, three minutes in the twenty-four hours. All the rest of the time it is firmly closed, and not one drop of fluid can pass from the bladder. Of course, oozing of liquid which is generated in the walls of the tube, or which enters it by ducts, may escape, but always, inevitably, in the outward direction only.

• **SOUTH VICTORIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION** — At a meeting of the South Victoria Medical Association, held to-day, resolutions were passed strongly condemnatory of the *Globe* newspaper in its advocacy of unrestricted commerce in medical practice without regard to proper medical tuition, as highly detrimental to the public good and morals ; also condemnatory of the action of the Medical Council in their late meeting in appointing from amongst themselves a Board of Examiners and voting to each other the sum of seventy dollars as remuneration for such service. The Association agree that it would have been in better taste to have made their selection outside the Council, satisfied that there were equally well qualified men to be found outside that august body, and that it would be in their own interest and the good of the profession that they reconsider the matter. Thanks were tendered to Mr. William Allison, representative for King's and Queen's Territorial Division, for his advocacy of an Independent Examining Board. The Government are asked to make the registration of deaths compulsory on the responsible representatives of the family in which death takes place, instead of at present on the medical man in attendance, as too often the medical man is not aware when the death does occur after his visit, is not conversant with other particulars required, and in many cases the medical man is not in attendance at all. The Association further strongly advise their representative to allow no further concession in