

Hospitals, we venture to think that in Medical and Surgical appointments, the election of officers, instead of, as in the past remaining in their hands, should be placed, as in the hospital at Hamilton, at the disposal of the profession, who, we conceive, would be better able than laymen, to form a correct opinion of the fitness of individuals nominated for vacancies as they may occur. Another point we would advert to, is this, at present medical officers are nominally appointed for a specific period, the vacation of their office, however, at the expiration of the time specified, has not we believe in the past been held as a necessary sequitor, neither have the Governors of the hospital always been mindful of the lapse of office by efflux of time, nor when they considered it desirable that the officer should continue his duties, that reappointment was necessary to make his position valid. We do not say that any abuse has from this laxity resulted, but it is a possible outcome, and should be guarded against. An officer may by more than ordinary skill as an operator, be looked upon as an indispensable retainer, and thus for years be continued on, until the tremor of the hand in operations, warns him, or should warn him, that his day is past. Sensible as men are in youth or manhood of the infirmities of age, they seldom discover these infirmities in themselves, and thus by tenacity of office, inflict a great evil upon young men who may be excluded from the advantage of hospital practice at a time when it is most likely to be serviceable to them. It is not to be concluded from our suggestion, of calling young men into active service, and employing them publicly that we desire to sever the connexion with our hospitals, of men whose services have been greatly appreciated. For them should be reserved the honorable situation of consulting physicians. Another point we would advert to is the desirability of having some system of rotation, similar to that existing in Continental hospitals. The election to rest with the profession. It would manifestly be to the interest of the public, which is deeply concerned in the available skill of the rising generation of physicians and surgeons, that these younger practitioners should have the benefit of the knowledge to be acquired by hospital practice. The competition it would produce in *regularity* and in study, by opening as far as possible, the road to eminence, by allowing unpatronized talent

to make its way before the public, would contribute to the cultivation of medicine, in a manner scarcely known, as a science above all others worthy of public patronage.

PAPERS on ununited fracture by Dr. A. McLay, and Gastric Vertigo by Dr. Kellock, received too late for insertion in present number.

WE desire to call the attention of our readers to the notice in our advertising columns of the time and place fixed for the eleventh meeting of the Canada Medical Association, of which Dr. Workman is this year President. Hamilton is a most central and accessible city, and we trust that a very large representation of the profession in Ontario will assemble.

DR. O'REILLY, Medical Superintendent of the General Hospital, left on Friday for the United States, to visit New York, Boston, Rochester, Hartford, and other large cities where there are training schools for nurses, in order to find out as much as possible about the management of these useful and popular institutions. The Training School to be organized in connection with the Toronto General Hospital here will, it is expected, be opened about the beginning of September. Dr. O'Reilly will also visit such lying-in hospitals as may come in his way during his tour.

PROBABLE DURATION OF THE LIVES OF MEDICAL MEN.—A Berlin Professor states that the ordinary duration of life in the human being is seventy years, but that a very few medical practitioners attain this age, and scarcely one out of fifteen advance so far as eighty; half the total number of practitioners perish before fifty. There is no profession, he states, in which there exists so much moral contention and fatigue, or which permits of less repose, the regularity of which is so essential for the interior as well as the exterior of life. None which exposes the body to such disastrous influences of the atmosphere, to such disturbances of nocturnal repose, to such watchings, to such irregularities of living, to such disorders of the digestive organs, and to such moral affections. To this I can add, he continues, the unknown number of medical men who perish from contagion. These statements of the Professor confirm the truth of the old adage. "*Medicè vivere, est miserè vivere.*"