

ment, an asylum with the above objects is much lessened in usefulness, as it is only those who voluntarily consent to enter its walls and remain there, who can be benefitted. Habitual drunkenness is an offence punishable by fine or imprisonment, but it is seldom that full justice is meted out to the better class of individuals. It is a crime against our Maker, and one against which the most fearful penalty is denounced; but, regarding drunkenness as a social evil, we do think that society is bound, for its own safety, to enact stringent laws, whereby the drunkard can be restrained, and, we believe, ultimately cured of his disease. The most careful discrimination would have to be taken to protect the interests of individuals; but the necessity of restraint seems urgent, and in a pecuniary point of view, the saving to the country would, we feel convinced, be marked, as more than three-fourths of the crime, which call for attention at the hands of the officers of the courts, are the direct result of the excessive use of the bottle. We are happy to announce to the public that the enterprising proprietors of the Belmont Retreat at Quebec have been induced to make the trial of establishing an institution with the above object, which is calculated to be of so much permanent benefit, and we trust their efforts will be successful.

MEDICAL STAFF OFFICER OF MILITIA.

Our readers will have perceived the appointment by our Government, of Gilbert Prout Girdwood, M.D., M.R.C.S. England, to the post of Medical Staff Officer of Militia. This is an excellent appointment, and from what we know of the Doctor, we feel convinced he is the right man in the right place. Dr. Girdwood has for the last two years been engaged in the practice of his profession in our city. Before that period he had acquired a knowledge of the requirements of an army in the field while attached to the Grenadier Guards; he served in that regiment during a period of ten years. We have every confidence that, should the Militia of this Province be called into active service, a most efficient Medical Staff with full Hospital requirements will be at hand, so that our Volunteers will engage in their work with the satisfaction of knowing that in case of sickness, or the reception of wounds in actual engagement, every care and comfort that can be had by the Provincial authorities will be available. We are aware that in June last, owing to there being no officer specially appointed by the Government, several of the battalions went to the frontier without adequate appliances in their medical department, although we must state that the Inspector General, Dr. Muir, afforded all the assistance which lay in his power, in supplying volunteer Surgeons with paniers, instruments, and everything which was likely to be necessary. We regard this appointment as in every way a most judicious step.