

Artillery, and should, in all justice, be denominated the "Royal" Medical Staff Corps. Promotion up to surgeon-lieutenant-colonel is by seniority, but promotion to a higher grade is in certain cases made by selection—merit or suitability is the test. A surgeon-lieutenant becomes a captain usually after three years' service. After twelve years total service and an examination, surgeon-major. After twenty years a surgeon-major becomes a surgeon-lieutenant-colonel. The brigade surgeon-lieutenant-colonels, surgeon-colonels, and surgeon-major-generals are selected from the respective next lower grades on the recommendation of the Director-General. The Director-General may be selected from any grade on the active or retired list, although he is generally taken from the highest grade on the active list, although not necessarily the senior officer. His appointment is for seven years.

(To be continued.)

PERMANGANATE OF POTASSIUM IN OPIUM POISONING.—Dr. J. G. Hayes (*Medical Record*, May 25th) mentions a case of opium poisoning. The patient, 65 years of age, had taken one and a half ounces of laudanum. An emetic of zinc sulph. was given and a hypodermic of gr $\frac{1}{3}$ atropia sulph. The patient rapidly grew worse, and became thoroughly unconscious, and respirations four and five 'per minute. The permanganate was injected into the buttocks, 3 grains every hour until 12 grains had been given. The patient gradually improved after the last dose, and next day was all right. Some pain where the injections had been given.

THE TREATMENT OF ACUTE PNEUMONIA BY ICE CRADLING.—Dr. P. Blaikie Smith (*British Medical Journal*, May 11th) refers to the remarks of Dr. W. S. Fenwick some two years ago with regard to the treatment of pneumonia by the application of cold water, or ice cradling. The writer states that 108 treated in this way gave only 10 per cent. mortality; while 552 treated by the ordinary methods had a death-rate of 23 per cent. The method of carrying out the treatment is to place one or two cradles over the patient; to these a number of small pails are suspended and filled with ice; the ice is renewed as required; the temperature of the patient and the space under the cradles carefully watched. The cradles and ice-pails are continued until the temperature of the patient becomes normal. If the patients complain of cold feet, short stockings should be applied.