

Miscellaneous.

DR. CANNIFF'S SERVICES.—We have much pleasure in publishing the following letter, which will be heartily endorsed by the general profession of Toronto:

To the Editor of The Globe:

SIR,—I trust you will give me space in the columns of *The Globe* to make some remarks respecting one who has faithfully served the city for seven or eight years. I have been hoping and expecting that some one more competent to do so than myself would render honor to one to whom honor is due. Perhaps it is an example of "out of sight, out of mind." The splendid work accomplished by Dr. Canniff in public health matters has never been duly recognised. When he commenced his career in sanitary reform there was great ignorance and indifference among the citizens and their representatives in the Council, and even no longer ago than the time of Mayor Manning the medical officer was told by the mayor that such an officer was unnecessary. I have been cognizant of the proceedings in connection with that office and duly read the carefully-prepared and lucid reports issued from time to time from the health office and know whereof I speak. At the present time there is a general interest felt in sanitary matters, but it was Dr. Canniff who first aroused that interest and created the desire among citizens to have healthy homes. Looking back I call to mind that it was his action which caused the filthy University Creek to be superseded by a sewer, as well as the equally polluted Garrison and Rosedale Creeks. Who was it but he who first, and time and again, called attention to the fact that the wells of Toronto were foul and unfit for domestic use and who was the means of having hundreds closed? I remember when some seven years ago he sounded the alarm that Toronto Bay was no better than an immense cesspool. For years he urged the abolition of privy pits, tried to have abattoirs constructed and slaughter houses abolished, and at almost every meeting of the local Board of Health urged the construction of crematories and endeavored to protect the citizens from impure milk and ice. In his report to the Board in the spring of 1890, he stated that he knew the character of the ice in the various ice houses, and asked that he might be authorised to compel the dealers to use separate wagons for pure and impure ice and to have painted upon each different labels, as that in no other way could the safety of the public from impure ice be secured, but the Board declined, and there is strong probability that the increase of typhoid last season was due to polluted ice.

The idea to have the smallpox hospital on the island east of the gap was proposed by Dr. Canniff three years ago. His management of smallpox cases and prevention of the spread of that loathsome disease was his greatest success. When there was an epidemic in Buffalo three years ago, and the disease was brought to Toronto in seven different places, all of them in crowded streets and crowded houses, the disease did not extend from one of them, a result the late president of the American Public Health Association declared to be marvellous. Year after year the sanitary condition of the island received his careful attention. Some of his recommendations with regard to the filling up of the lagoons or connecting them with the bay, so as to prevent stagnation and have a current through them, were followed. Others were neglected by the Board and Council. When dead fish collected on the shore they were gathered up and disposed of. He made arrangements to have the garbage removed to where it would not endanger the public. Through his instrumentality the slips were dredged out, and when possible at hours when the public were not passing.

Any one who will look at his yearly reports will see how the Medical Health Department grew and developed

under his guiding hand. It may not generally be known that he was in his office at 8 or 8.30 a.m. in summer and 9 in winter. Every report of every inspector was examined by him and instructions given. In spite of manifold obstacles, he succeeded in having houses unfit for human occupation vacated. Notwithstanding an indifferent, lukewarm, or a hostile Board and enemies in authority, he made Toronto a healthy city, as the mortality returns show. This will be seen by his last annual report. Toronto was then far ahead of all the cities in the Dominion. Enemies of the department were continually declaring or insinuating that his system was bad or that there was no system, and not a month before he resigned, out of despair and worn out by worry and discouragement, he asked that veteran sanitarian, Dr. Oldright, to examine his mode of procedure, and this is what Dr. Oldright said: "In pursuance of your request that I should examine into the system adopted in your office and express my opinion upon it, I have to say that I have looked at the various forms and traced the successive steps for the abatement of nuisances and correction of insanitary conditions, for the limitation of infectious diseases, for the regulation of dairies, slaughter houses, junk shops, etc., for recording and filing reports of work done, and for the execution of such other sanitary work as appertains to the office of a local medical health officer. I have had opportunities of seeing the methods employed in Chicago, New York, and Boston, and I am glad to be able to say that those adopted by you are similar, and equally well-adapted to attain the ends in view."

ONE WHO KNOWS.

Toronto, June 24.

Arrangements are being made for a post-graduate course in Edinburgh, to commence September 21st and end October 10th.

At the recent final examination for M.B. and C.M. in the University of Edinburgh, the number of successful candidates was 192.

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SEND FOR ANNOUNCEMENT.

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