

## THE NORTHERN LANCET.

It would appear that the strictures passed in this journal on the appointment of a Montreal graduate to the position of House Surgeon to the Winnipeg General Hospital were not altogether warranted, inasmuch as one of the Governors has stated that the executive were quite willing, even anxious, to fill the appointment with a local man, but, though it was well known to the medical staff for some months, that Dr. O'Reilly had sent in his resignation, no suggestion as to his successor was made by any of them, and further it was conveyed to the board that there was no graduate of Manitoba College competent to fulfil the duties of the office. This, of course, alters the case so far as the Governors are concerned, but we maintain that the usual custom should be observed of advertising vacant offices and soliciting applications from candidates desirous of filling them. If no applications come in from competent men among those who should be favored before strangers, then no friction could arise at the importation of an outsider. As it now stands the present appointment has created widespread dissatisfaction. Some time since we urged dividing the medical staff as in all other hospitals seeking recognition as clinical schools into physicians and surgeons and distributing among them the available beds—thus securing more efficient and satisfactory instruction for the students and a very much improved attendance by the medical staff on their several patients. What can be the objection of the governors of the hospital to this it is difficult to fathom. Instead of as is now the practice one medical man hurrying through the wards having time only for a glance at each case the hospital would be visited daily by every physician and surgeon attached to it. The gain by

such an arrangement is so manifest that in the interests of the institution, the students, and the patients any hesitation on the part of the hospital management in adopting it is one of those things that no man can understand. We can only suppose that they have never seriously considered the matter, and we now most earnestly call their attention to it. The staff should consist of physicians, surgeons and obstetric physician. Hereafter as the institution grows it may be found necessary to appoint special eye and ear surgeons, pathologist and other officials; at present the requirements would be met by the course suggested. Seniority in the service of the hospital gives the right of precedence and carries with it no signification of superior ability in any professional department—so that jealousy cannot arise on this point. Each physician and surgeon should have his appointed hours daily for visiting his beds, and a strict fulfilment of this duty should as in all other well governed institutions of a similar character be imperatively required, or in the unavoidable absence of the official this duty should be delegated to some other qualified professional man. This is the system which prevails all over the world, and we feel sure that if the Governors would seriously consider the matter they would unhesitatingly adopt it. There is a possibility that some of the present staff may object to the alteration as it calls for considerably increased work on their part. But if unable to spare the time which the heads of the profession in the various centres of the world willingly devote to this service then they had better make way for others who are willing to do so. The present method of professional working is regarded by the great majority of medical men with somewhat of contempt, and its change to the universal system now adopted in all large public hospitals is imperatively called for.