

The Medical Chronicle.

LICET OMNIBUS, LLEUT NOBIS DIGNITATEM ARTIS MEDICÆ TUERET.

THE TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The evil spirit of which we made condemnatory mention in a recent number, continues to agitate the minds of our professional friends in Toronto. Ever signalized by his restlessness, no sooner is he quelled in one turmoil than another is evoked in which his fiendish machinations are even more tumultuous than they were before. Why he should confine his actions to this spot of Canadian soil, and find in no other a fitting theatre for the exhibition of his knavish pranks is a circumstance which, while it speaks favourably for the peace of distant parts, tends to cast a shadow of suspicion over the internal condition of his own cherished land. For it might be suspected, we hope wrongfully, that there was some peculiar predisposition which either invited, or else gave remarkable effect to his excitations when they were applied; in short, that there subsisted a characteristic conformation of moral status in the individuals influenced, which delighted in mischief and preferred obliquity to rectitude of conduct.

In the *Colonist* of the 24th of March last, there appeared a letter over the signature of "A Medical Student" which represented the Toronto General Hospital, as an evil that had grown grey in sin, and had reached a climax demanding speedy adjustment. Public feeling was so exasperated that an inquiry was loudly called for, and under circumstances of supposed aggravation, its immediate prosecution was unavoidable. The Trustees accordingly assembled at an early day, and proceeded to verify or disprove the accusation that had been so fearlessly put forth. A large body of evidence was acquired, and certainly the task proved to be one demanding much patience and no little discernment.

The charges made were multifarious, as instances we may adduce the most prominent and outrageous. The Hospital was declared to be kept in a state of disgusting uncleanness; the floor, walls and appurtenances of the wards, were represented to be extremely filthy. The bed-clothes of the patients swarming with vermin, and altogether such a condition of neglect prevalent, as must, upon its perception, prove most harrowing to any person possessed of the least sensitiveness of feeling. For this revolting state of affairs no excuse can be pleaded, for wherever industry with soap and water are to be obtained it would not be found. In palliation it has been urged that there were no baths attached to the Hos-