

diousness was practised as to their diet, which was not changed; the author conceiving, as mentioned before, that the stomach would be more liable to get out of order if deprived of the vegetables grateful to it, and to which it had been accustomed, than if they were permitted to be used. The regimental canteen, that fruitful source of mischief, was placed under strict watchfulness, and inemperance prevented as much as possible. It ought to be added that in this respect, and indeed every other, the conduct of the soldiers of the 66th during both epidemics was eminently good.

With these precautions, and early attention to premonitory abdominal disturbances, the disease touched us lightly, and we had only eight adult cases of cholera out of seven hundred and sixty-nine individuals. However, we had besides a host of bowel complaints, many of which no doubt, would have merged in the pestilence but for early treatment. This was a ratio about twenty fold less than amongst the civil population; and our total loss was fifty fold less or thereabouts, being only one man and two children.

There was a material difference between the practice of 1832 and 1834. Laudanum, brandy, and other stimulants were administered now much more sparingly than before; when, probably they had been used too freely. Bleeding, also, was not so common, for those violent tetanic spasms which it had so frequently relieved in the former year were not so general. Calomel had been given then very largely, but was now used less indiscriminately. In 1835 acetate of lead was used in some hopeless cases with much benefit. My favourite remedy was castor oil, combined with a small quantity of laudanum, given in some grateful and demulcent fluid, as hot as possible; making the patient lie on his right side, for the assistance of gravitation towards the pylorus, and to prevent nausea. In some hundred cases on this and the former occasion, I witnessed the most excellent effects from this remedy; and moreover, experienced them myself in the early stage of two attacks of cholera I had at Kingston. Once when attending a gentleman who died of the disease, I was conscious of the very moment of contracting it at his bedside. I instantly went home and to bed, and took the oil and laudanum, when five minutes delay might have cost my life. For some time there was a terrible internal conflict, the heart laboured tumultuously, and I lay quietly, yet under the perfect consciousness that a great struggle was going on for life or death, whether the thin part of the blood called the serum, should rush fatally to the coats of the intestines, or be determined in a warm and salutary perspiration to the skin. All this time the pulse could not be counted, and the feeling of anxiety and oppression of the vital powers was dreadful. At length the circulation gradually became calmer, the shriveling skin swelled out with warm moisture and grateful heat, and the crisis was past. Here, and in numerous similar instances, like the fabled action of oil on a stormy sea, this invaluable medicine soothed the internal commotion and effected a grateful and healthy calm.

As on the former occasion the conduct of the manly and intelligent community of Kingston was becoming the character of their town. Nobody shrank from the kind offices to the sick, nobody ran away; a health committee sat daily, and the doctors and clergy of all persuasions did their duty nobly as before.

Although we have seen cholera following roads and rivers, and the great lines of human intercourse in various parts of the world, it has often left some favored spots untouched, in a very capricious and unaccountable manner. In England, Exeter was never visited by the disease, though it prevailed in the neighborhood. During the invasion of 1834, the south shore of Lake Ontario was exempt, but not the north. Opposite to Kingston is a village, on a height called Barrielfield, where numerous deaths took place from cholera; whilst in another village, or hamlet, but half a mile distant, and nearly level with the lake, the malady did not show itself at all. We found it pertinaciously sticking to some houses, and occurring in them again and again; and those elevated parts of the town, which had always been considered the most healthy, suffered the most. By the middle of September the health of Kingston was restored, but half the inhabitants were in mourning."

MEDICO-MILITARY NOTES.

A surgeon of some years experience claims that the period of service required by our Militia Act before the rank of Surgeon-Major can be obtained is altogether too long, viz., twenty years. In the Imperial service the majority of surgeons obtain their surgeon-majorship in ten or twelve years. As this title gives relative rank of Lieut.-Col. he suggests that the title of Surgeon-Colonel replace it.

The same officer says that he is entirely opposed to the forming of the Militia Medical officer into a staff corps—same as in the Imperial service. Such a suggestion has been made of late. The rank between combatant and non-combatant officers of our volunteer corps is now very slight. It would practically cease to exist if the medical officer was not an officer of the corps.

A correspondent, signing himself "Medicus," asks why no honours have ever been conferred on our Militia Medical officers. He says: "There are several well known names still in the militia who have done their country good service. They are high up on the seniority list, two or more having served nearly forty years."

The question of medical equipment for camps is, according to Surgeon-Major Campbell, of the Canadian Regiment of Infantry, one of much difficulty. He says: Doctors differ in their views of the best drugs to use under precisely similar conditions. In private practice they each choose the remedy they prefer and would like to do the same when acting in a military capacity. This is quite impossible. A drug store of large dimensions in a camp is out of the question. Troops in camp are presumed to be on active service, and only these things can be allowed which experience has shown to be essential. The duty of preparing the medicine chests for the camps in the 5th and 6th military districts has for some years been assigned to Surgeon-Major Campbell. The first year he had this only to prepare. He wrote to every medical officer who was going into camp and asked for suggestions. These he received and largely acted upon. The result was complete satisfaction. Next year a different set of medical officers were in camp, and there was much grumbling at the contents of the case. The plan followed last year of having some of the camps at the military schools and making the hospital of the permanent corps the camp hospital was found to work well.

The supply of medical officers at the Brigade Camp at St. Johns last summer was, it is said, not what it ought to have been. Two battalions had none. The result was that the P. M. O. was a man of all kinds of work. Medical officers should do their duty or retire.

A medical head is certainly needed for our militia,—one to whom all matters medical may be referred. If we look at the militia list we find one there; but does he ever act in his official capacity? We doubt it.

A DISTINGUISHED ARMY SURGEON.

Surgeon-General Henry Mills Cannon, who died recently at his residence in Eaton Place, entered the army in 1846. He served in the Punjab Campaign of 1849-50, was present at the actions of Ramnugger, Chillianwalla, and Goojerat, and received for his distinguished services a medal and three clasps. He earned the thanks of the Supreme Government and of the Local Government of the North-Western Provinces for services in the Rohilkund and Meerut Divisions during the Mutiny period. He was also recommended by the Commander-in-Chief for brevet promotion, and a good-service pension of 100*l.* a year was conferred on him. The letter intimating this distinction referred to his conduct in high terms of praise, and expressed the satisfaction with which the Government of India viewed Her Majesty's recognition of his services to the State. Dr. Cannon was recommended for a Commandership of the Bath by the Government of India in April, 1878. Unfortunately for him, no birthday honours were gazetted in that year, and before the next birthday he had retired, in ignorance of the rule that retired officers are barred from being appointed to the order.

