

Our Minister of Militia is, we presume, acting under advice, but we would recommend him not to allow himself to be placed in a false position, to take no man's word without being himself certain that the premises are correct. We would be sorry to see him render himself simply ridiculous in the selection of a board of examiners for volunteer surgeons, especially after having deserved well of his country in having acted with prudence and foresight in other matters connected with the volunteer force. If it be thought necessary, we make no doubt that practitioners hailing from our Universities are quite equal to passing any examination before any board, however constituted. With reference to McGill University, we say it, not boastingly, but with pride, that those of our students who have presented for army medical appointments, received them, after having passed highly creditable examinations. This is the more noticeable, as these men had to compete with candidates hailing from all the universities and colleges in the kingdom.

We say, again, if an examination of fitness is to be the test, let the board be selected from among the first men in the ranks of our profession, and not from among those holding the same position as the candidate;—in some instances his inferior in the social scale,\* as well as his inferior mentally, educationally, and in every other respect, except in not holding Her Majesty's commission as a non-combatant in Her Majesty's regular army. Since writing the above, a Medical Staff Officer has been appointed, and we feel certain, that that gentleman will do all in his power to organise the Medical department of the Militia on a basis as to command the respect and confidence of the public.

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#### REFORMATORY FOR INEBRIATES.

WE are happy to announce that Mr. and Mrs. Wakeham, the well-known managers of the private asylum at Quebec, have, at the suggestion of their well wishers, determined to alter the objects of their home, and receive for isolation and cure those afflicted individuals, who, from long indulgence in the use of intoxicating beverages, have brought themselves to that state of mental disease whereby they are unable to combat with the temptation whenever offered. The disease, dipsomania, is well recognised at the present day, and many valuable lives are annually sacrificed by the neglect, on the part of society, of legislating on an evil which is alarmingly on the increase. In the absence of legislative enact-

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\*By this, we would intimate, that in some of the country districts, practitioners of old standing, and the first men in their district, may possibly be the only Surgeons available to Government as Surgeons of Battalions; and whose position is magnificently superior to those who are proposed by Government to constitute their Examining Board.