

THE PROVINCIAL CENTRE OF THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.—At a meeting held on the 25th ult. at the Canadian Military Institute a "Centre," or branch, for the Province of this Association was organized, and the following officers elected: President, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor; vice-presidents and members of council, Sir James Grant, K.C.M.G., M.D., Ottawa; Senator Gowan, C.M.G., Barrie; Judge Weller, Peterboro'; Sheriff Murton, Hamilton; Rev. Canon Richardson, London; Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonald, Guelph; H. Corby, M.P., Belleville; Judge Hughes, St. Thomas; Dr. R. T. Walkem, Q.C., Kingston; William Mulock, M.P., Toronto; Surgeon-General Bergin, M.P., Cornwall; Henry Cawthra, Toronto; W. R. Brock, Toronto; medical director, Deputy Surgeon-General G. S. Ryerson, M.P.P., Toronto; lecturers and examiners, Drs. Strange, Grasett, E. E. King, Stuart, Dame, Nattress, Elliott, Meyers, W. H. B. Aikins and O'Reilly; assistant secretary-treasurer, Dr. Campbell Meyers. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor occupied the chair, and among those present were Lieutenant-Colonels Otter, D.A.G., Davidson, Mason, Hamilton, Macdonald (Guelph), Major Mead, Drs. O'Reilly, Stuart, Meyers, E. E. King, Elliott and others. This Society is the Ambulance Department of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, which has its headquarters at St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, which is now all that remains of the ancient priory of the order, built in 1504, and recently restored. This order is a revival and continuation of the old Hospitaller Order of Rhodes and Malta. Its history has been an eventful one, both in England and abroad. It was suppressed in England at the time of the Reformation, as a Roman Catholic fraternity, and at Malta when Napoleon took possession of the island. In England, however, it was never annihilated, for after the suppression referred to, its members continued in communication with headquarters at Malta, and, passing through many vicissitudes, continued without state recognition as a fraternity devoted to hospital and charitable work. In 1888 Queen Victoria granted a royal charter of incorporation, and graciously became its sovereign head and patron, the Prince of Wales at the same time taking the place of grand prior. Among the many services which the order has rendered to the public is the establishment of the ambulance society which has now been formed here. It is intended to form local centres through the Province, as the opportunity may arise. A local centre will be formed in Toronto at an early date. The formation of these centres is being promoted by Dr. Ryerson, Deputy Surgeon-General, an honorary associate of the Order of St. John.