

of assistant physicians, we do confess that we are a good deal surprised, not only at the unanimous opposition which it received, but at the reasons assigned, why the suggestion should not be carried out. One of the staff was egotistical enough to say that the Medical Board should not be increased, because the public went there expecting to get the very best advice. Upon which, a member of the Committee asked him, if he really thought that the entire medical talent of the City of Montreal was embraced in the staff of the Montreal General Hospital. A good many similar arguments were used, and the result has been that although the Committee of Management—the majority at least we are informed remain still of the opinion that the interests of the institution would be served by adding a staff of assistant physicians to attend to out-patients—they for the present waive it, in deference to the unanimous opposition of its Medical Board. We have not alluded to the school argument mentioned by our correspondent, because its transparency, as illustrated at the last election, is surely signing its death warrant. We confess to a degree of sadness, when we contemplate this action of the Hospital Staff; placing them, as it certainly does, entirely antagonistic to the wishes of the majority of the English-speaking members of the profession in Montreal. We venture to affirm that this point of an outdoor staff to the General Hospital, has been very generally discussed by the profession, and its necessity is universally admitted. The eagerness with which such appointment would be sought for, can be judged, when we mention the fact that, at a recent election for physician to the Montreal Dispensary, so keen was the canvas, that thirty governors attended the meeting. If an institution like the Dispensary, quiet and but comparatively little known, could induce such emulation, how much more likely would interest and enthusiasm attach to appointments as outdoor physicians to a large general hospital. In similar institutions in other cities, there is not this exclusiveness shown; for instance, we have at this moment before us the last annual report of the Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston. This hospital, both as regards the number of its indoor patients, and outdoor patients, is a perfectly fair one for comparison. What, then, do we find. That there is a staff for the indoor patients of six surgeons and six physicians. For the out-patients there are three surgeons and the same number of physicians, while in this department there are three physicians for special diseases. Again, this action of the General Hospital Medical Staff is unfair upon another ground. Every member of that Board,

save one, is a professor in the same medical school, and nearly every young medical man practising in Montreal, is a graduate of that school. Yet, when a fair and legitimate field is about to be opened to them, in which to increase their knowledge of disease, their late teachers rush forward, shut the door in their face, and as this moment it is locked to them. We ask is this fair, is it just, is it generous; is this the way the honied words and warm congratulations of graduation day are to be interpreted. Is this the way "our late professors" are "watching over us," and rejoicing in our success, and even willing to extend to us a helping hand. If it is—farewell—to any bond of sympathy—such as should ever exist between teachers and late pupils, and a reluctant acceptance of the fact that, once beyond the portals of your *alma mater*, the sooner you realize the fact—that she has already begun to forget you—the better for your own peace of mind, the better for your independence of character.

We are not sufficiently versed in the early history of the hospital to know whether those who composed the staff, when it only consisted of four members, as stoutly opposed its increase to its present size of eight, as does the present staff any further addition to their number. If they did, we would recommend to the present Medical Board the lessons of the past; for, just as certainly as an increase was demanded and obtained some thirty years ago, so surely is another increase demanded now. Why, then, not grant it graciously, and not be compelled to surrender. The change has got to be made, and that before very long.

#### A NEW HOSPITAL IN MONTREAL.

We understand that there is every probability of the hospital accommodation of the Metropolis of Canada being very shortly increased by the erection of a new General Hospital, in the western section of the city. The rapid extension of Montreal westward within the last ten years, with the large increase in the number of manufactories in the same section, has several times suggested the advisability of such an undertaking, but till the present spring no definite action was taken. The fact, however, that the nearest hospital was nearly two miles distant, from the majority of the large factories, necessitating the conveying of persons, accidentally injured over that distance, powerfully impressed a philanthropic gentleman, who has nobly subscribed the sum of twelve thousand dollars, and more if necessary, for the wing of an hospital, provided land was procured for that