

himself, and that the work of the Provincial Board of Health will not suffer any deterioration in his hands.

Dr. Hodgetts was for a time connected with No. 4 Bearer Company, under Major Fotheringham. He now holds the rank of captain. During the South African War he acted as Honorary Secretary to the Canadian Red Cross Society for which he received the reward of being made an honorary associate of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, England. He enters upon his new duties immediately. Dr. Bryce having already assumed his new duties.

---

### FIRE PROTECTION IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

The public conscience is stirred now and again by some sudden catastrophe. The recent fire in Chicago has directed attention to the safety of the public in theatres and public halls. It is often only too true that such awakenings are of short duration, and the public mind is soon lulled to sleep again.

While this subject is before the public thought, it would be well to give careful attention to the safety of the inmates of our hospitals asylums, poorhouses, prisons, jails, schools, etc. Every facility should be furnished for the speedy removal of the inmates to some point of safety. The attendants in all such institutions should be thoroughly drilled in the proper actions to take in the event of fire breaking out.

The great value of fire drill has been, within the past few weeks, well exemplified in two of the Toronto public schools. But while all can rejoice in the successful manner in which the pupils and teachers made their escape from the burning building, it is very desirable that steps should be taken to render such fires practically impossible. Some day, a fire may occur in a school, or public institution, in such a way as to block up the passages and thus cut off the lines of escape. Fire drill would then fail to save the lives of the inmates.

It is of the utmost importance that in every hospital throughout the country steps be taken to safeguard these institutions. The electric wiring, the furnaces, and all pipes and chimneys should be inspected and put in an absolutely safe condition. It is as in many other things, prevention is better than cure. It is only about a year ago now when some eighteen persons lost their lives in a hospital fire in Chicago. It is not our intention to say anything at present regarding the provisions for the rapid and safe removal of patients from the Toronto Hospitals. We are, however, of the opinion that, if put to a severe test by a large