

more time than I could well afford, but with a movement of the kind just mentioned, I should feel it a pleasure to co-operate, willingly following the lead of the man who is to do for Toronto what Fordyce Barker did for the city of New York. We have men who could make such a movement an assured success from the beginning. Doctors Temple, Graham and Reeve are gentlemen whose names naturally suggest themselves, and from the ranks of our "Four Hundred" there are others well fitted to carry to satisfactory completion anything of this nature for our professional and social advantage.

Yours fraternally,

N. A. POWELL.

176 College St., Toronto,
Sept. 29th.

A MEDICAL OFFICER IN GREAT LUCK.

EDITOR DOMINION MEDICAL MONTHLY:

SIR,—It is such an unusual event to be able to chronicle a piece of good luck on the part of a "member of the medical staff of the militia," that I cannot refrain from drawing the attention of the profession to it. The *Canada Gazette*, of September 1st, 1893, contained the announcement that Surgeons Strange, Sewell, Hanavan, Codd and McLearn, were promoted to Surgeons-Major from that date. These gentlemen can be sincerely congratulated in the exact ratio to the shortness of their service. Here is their record—Surgeon Strange, 13th January, 1880; Surgeon Sewell, 16th December, 1881; Surgeon Hanavan, September, 1882; Surgeon Codd, 15th August, 1885; Assistant-Surgeon McLearn, 29th November, 1889. So that Dr. McLearn is Surgeon-Major after less than *four years'* service, of which only *one* was in the rank of Surgeon. No one of these gentlemen has served more than thirteen years, yet the regulations say distinctly that Surgeons-Major

shall only be appointed after twenty years' service in the rank of Surgeon, not counting Assistant-Surgeon. So that Dr. McLearn has accomplished in *four* years what has taken other men *thirty* years. He ought certainly to be congratulated on his luck, but the system is most unfair to the rest of us. MILITÄR ARTZ.

Book Notices.

Alcohol and Public Health. By J. J. RIDGE, M.D. Second edition. London: H. K. Lewis, 136 Gower St., W.C. 1893.

The question of prohibition, now so actively discussed in nearly every portion of the Dominion, finds in this work many arguments of a favourable character which are not usually employed by the advocates of total abstinence.

The purpose of the author is to show that the use of intoxicating beverages, in ever so small quantities, is physiologically wrong, and he regards it obligatory on the part of the defender of alcohol-drinking to prove that it is harmless. He maintains that, until this is done, we should advise total abstinence as a certain means of preventing all the evils, small or great, which result from its use.

What to do in Cases of Poisoning. By WM. MURRELL, M.D., F.R.C.P. London: H. K. Lewis, 136 Gower St., W.C. 1893.

The seventh edition of this valuable work has reached us from the press, and in recommending it to our readers, we do so with the utmost confidence. It is handy, compact and up to date. Being up to date means a very great deal in this age of discovery of numerous new remedies capable of producing toxic effects. The work does not claim to discuss theories or modes of action, but is written on purely practical lines. In the words