

to obtain, to carry out their purposes; and what is more, have refused even to get the necessary blank forms required by law, printed and distributed, not only to the parties alluded to, but to the profession generally, for the purpose of fully carrying out this Act. Why the corporation should thus endeavour to negative in its operation, one of the most beneficial acts which has ever passed our Legislature, is more than we can, with every effort of our imagination, conceive. Not until enforced upon them did the Corporation of the City of Montreal, act at all, but having taken action, they have done, in a most important matter, as little as they possibly could. Their whole proceeding in the affair speaks but little for their beneficence, and their wish to curtail the ravages of one of the most direst pests of the nineteenth century. But what have the other cities specified in the Act done in the premises? We have not learned that the slightest attention has been paid to the Act by one of them. This fact, if fact it be, coupled with the circumstances previously mentioned, must necessitate some amendments to the Act next Session—because if people will not perform an obvious and entailed duty, unless punished for the non-performance, the sooner the penalty is attached for that non-performance, the better for the communities at large.

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#### THE ILLNESS OF THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT.

The *Lancet* of January 11th states that it "is *officially* informed that the authentic and coherent account of the illness of the late Prince Consort, for which the profession and the public have manifested an anxious desire, will for the *present be withheld*. This is to be regretted on every account. It cannot be said that the public, which had a claim to daily bulletins of the illness during its progress, has none to such a statement as may explain and reconcile the unavoidable imperfection of these documents. The impression produced by the silence, maintained in the presence of public questioning on this subject cannot fail to be painful. It leaves open to various conjectures a matter on which there should be no shadow of doubt."

Such is the language of our contemporary, and the fact disclosed is certainly of an extraordinary character. We cannot account for this singular reticence unless it be the effect of express instructions from a high quarter; but what beneficial purpose is to be subserved by it surpasses our comprehension. We will not fail in giving our readers a resumé of the case as soon as possible after its appearance.

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#### MEDICAL OFFICERS FOR CANADA.

Orders have been received at Chatham, directing Inspector-General W. M. Muir, C. B., principal medical officer of the garrison, to proceed forthwith to Canada, to take the medical charge of the troops about to be despatched to that country. A number of the medical officers attached to the Staff at Fort Pitt Hospital have also been placed under orders to proceed to Canada, as well as a portion of the Staff of the Purveyor's Department, together with forty men of the Army Hospital Corps. Amongst the officers named are Dr. J. H. R. Innes, C.B., Deputy-Inspector-General of Hospitals, and principal medical officer at the