

## THE NORTHERN LANCET.

## WINNIPEG GENERAL HOSPITAL.

A rumor, which we hope has solid foundation, tells of a proposed change in the professional working of this institution, a change most desirable and urgently called for in the interests of the hospital, the medical staff, the patients, and the students. This is the division of the attending medical men into physicians and surgeons, and the permanent distribution of the beds among them. Nothing could be more unsatisfactory than the existing arrangements. Each member of the staff takes the entire charge of all patients for alternate two months. Medical and surgical beds are all jumbled together, and the physician and the surgeon is one and the same person. If he has any private practice, is it not beyond contradiction that either the private patients or the hospital patients must not unfrequently lack proper attention, and when it becomes necessary which of the two must suffer, it is pretty safe to infer who will be neglected. The hospital patients may suffer no actual neglect, as the resident staff attend to them. But so far as the physician and surgeon is concerned, they must be neglected. To enquire into the fresh cases daily admitted and examine those under treatment, if properly done, will take up a very considerable portion of the day, more time than men in active practice can afford to give. Regarding the hospital as a school for students, the advantages which it presents are minimized by the present system. Students follow a medical man for his two months of active duty, listen to his remarks, observe his treatment, and flatter themselves they are storing up knowledge. But what is their consternation when the gentleman succeeding holds different views and pursues a different line of treatment. How can the students judge which is right and which is wrong? The Winnipeg General Hospital is large enough and important enough to have a properly constituted professional staff, as in all well-regulated hospitals throughout the world. There should be physicians and surgeons,

each with their allotted beds, having entire charge of all patients in their respective beds throughout the year. This, with a proper staff of consulting physicians and surgeons and an obstetric physician, each surgeon and physician having his clinical clerks and dressers, positions to be given to students as the reward of merit, would establish the hospital as a clinical school. And when it is remembered that the medical men turned out by Manitoba Medical College are dependent on this hospital for all the practical knowledge they acquire previous to settling in practice, the necessity of making the most efficient arrangements for the imparting of practical instruction is very apparent. We believe that the staff are almost unanimous in favor of the proposed change, and the only possible objection that can be advanced against it must be on purely selfish considerations. Some men may fancy that occupying the position of physician to an hospital, surgical cases may not come to them, and vice versa. But the professional man who cannot rise superior to these petty personal considerations is undeserving of an hospital appointment. It is now in the hands of the staff to make the proposed change, which, if they neglect, will assuredly, acting under the pressure of public opinion, be ere long insisted upon by the governing body of the hospital, who would be derelict in their duty if they allowed private considerations or professional jealousy to act injuriously on the interests of a charity which they have voluntarily come forward and undertaken to guard and promote, as we have before said. In the interests of the hospital, the patients, and the students, and we would add the public at large, let the much called-for change be made, and that right speedily.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA.

The first step has been taken to place this university in the position which it ought to occupy, and be not alone a mere conferrer of degrees, but a teaching body also, where the highest class of education which the spirit of the times demands may be obtainable. A meeting under