

The Canada Lancet

VOL. XLVII.

TORONTO, JUNE, 1914

No. 10

EDITORIAL

THE MEDICAL LIBRARY AT WASHINGTON.

It is to be sincerely hoped that the proposed law to merge the Surgeon-General's Library at Washington into the General Library of Congress may never become an act, or, if it does, that it will soon be repealed.

This library of medical books is the largest in the world, and has been conducted under rules that have made it most useful and helpful to the medical profession. There is much reason to fear that under the proposed conditions there would be placed upon the loaning of books and the use of the library many restrictions.

For many years the library has published its catalogue and the index medicus. These two publications are of the greatest possible value to the medical profession. These may be discontinued if the proposed change goes into effect.

We fail to see why the Government of the United States should desire to change a condition of affairs that has worked so admirably. The Medical Library of the United States is known all the world over.

MONTREAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

A number of important changes have been made in the Health Department of Montreal. The vital statistic work will make an effort to show causes of disease and how certain factors play a part in causation.

Another important phase of the work of the department will be the inspection of food, and make the milk analyses. It is proposed to place the care of the water supply under the Health Department.

The medical inspection of public school children will also be looked after by the Medical Health Officers, who will have charge of infectious diseases. It is suggested that these inspectors should be full-time physicians.