

CANADA

Medical and Surgical Journal.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY, 1877.

COLONIAL SURGEONS AND THE MERCHANT MARINE.

By the action of the Board of Trade of Great Britain, ship owners have been notified that from and after the 1st January, 1877, all surgeons in charge of emigrant ships, sailing from any British port, must hold a British qualification, or a diploma from some British University or College. In the case of Canada this appears to be an exceedingly hard matter, as it places the institutions of our country at a disadvantage. We do not desire to call in question this action of the Board of Trade, but think that hasty legislation will end in trouble and may lead to difficulty. We in Canada are governed by laws of local origin, and which the Board of Trade of the mother country has no power to alter. It is in every way desirable that persons in charge of emigrant ships should be duly qualified and hold legal status. But it must be borne in mind that no British graduate, as such, holds any status in Canada, he cannot practice his profession in this country on the strength of his holding any British degree, nor can he enter any Court of Law, or be recognized as a duly qualified medical practitioner in Canada, unless he complies with the law of this colony and is duly registered in the books of the Provincial Medical Board.

An emigrant ship leaves Liverpool for Quebec in charge of a British graduate duly registered in Great Britain. If it is a steamship, three or four of the last days of the