

confess to some little surprise at there not being a single reference to them in the general order, which was issued by Gen'l. Smythe after the review. There were many difficulties experienced in carrying out the above arrangements, which proves that so important a department as that of the Medical Department of the Volunteer Militia should have a permanent head. This should be a Medical man of some Military experience and administrative ability, to whom the Medical officers could look for guidance, advice and assistance. He would be able to keep in store what is required to be used when any portion of the force is called out for service. This is a matter of really very great importance, and one to which we would draw the attention of the Government. Every year the necessity for such an officer is most evident. On the 12th of July last, when a large force was assembled in Montreal to perform what was believed to be a very serious and a very dangerous duty, the Medical and Surgical stores issued were in so dilapidated condition that, had the riot ensued which was anticipated, they would have been utterly insufficient. Knowing this, the Medical officers of the Montreal force purchased many things at their own expense. If we had a Medical director this would not be. The wants of the Medical Department are peculiar, and it is utterly impossible for any one but a Medical man to appreciate and provide for them.

MONTREAL, June 9th, 1879.

F. W. CAMPBELL, ESQ., M.D.,

*Editor Canada Medical Record.*

SIR,—In your last month's edition you say that a child died in consequence of having taken an overdose of "Dr. Coderre's Infant Syrup." This may occur with any medicine. You add: "We do not propose to criticise the action of "Dr. Coderre in introducing his nostrum for "general sale to the public, simply because it is "beneath criticism. The act carries with it its "own condemnation." So you fancy my conduct is not worth the trouble of being criticised, that it condemns itself (referring to the death of the child of Mrs. Bourdeau, keeper of the toll-gate at Lower Lachine). Without any examination of the facts connected with this death, you condemn one of my preparations, asserting that it is a quack remedy, and highly dangerous, and

that such is also the opinion of the "great bulk of the profession in this city." There is nothing astonishing in you and your friends so judging my preparations, which can be obtained without your prescription, and without the chemist being obliged to give you a commission on the sale, as the greater number of your friends exact, or have exacted, for each prescription sent to certain chemists. The same feeling of delicacy which impelled you to require this commission must have actuated you and your friends in your appreciation of my preparations. How can you condemn the "Infants' Syrup" as "highly dangerous" if you are ignorant of its composition? Is not your journal filled with advertisements recommending preparations which do not, perhaps, offer the security mine do? and yet you patronise them! If you wished to judge impartially of the "Infants' Syrup" you should, in the first place, have required from me its composition, and I would have given it to you as I have given it to such of my confrères as signed the certificate attesting that the preparation is composed of substances employed in the treatment of the complaints for which it is recommended, not as curing the sickness, but as being safe to administer with the greatest confidence.

See how far your judgment goes! You say, in alluding to my "Tonic Elixir": "any remedy recommended to cure so many diseases as is "Dr. Coderre's Tonic Elixir" is certainly a quack remedy. My "Tonic Elixir" has never been given as curing the ills to which you allude. Look at the directions and you will find that they merely say: "this Elixir has been successfully administered for over twenty years," &c. I could publish more certificates than would fill the columns of your journal, were it necessary, to attest the efficacy of this preparation. Suffice it to say that my "Tonic Elixir" has for its base *Liq. of Iod. Quin. (iodurée)* which I have prepared myself for over thirty years. This has been given to students in my lectures on *Materia Medica*. The prescription has also been given to the Hotel-Dieu as well as to the Reverend Sisters de la Providence, who published it in their treatise on *Materia Medica* in 1869.

Now, can you consider yourself justified in having qualified this preparation as you have done in your article? Surely not. Your esti-