

the Medical officers, immediately on the assembly of each corps, to make a strict examination of the men, sending at once back to their homes any who might be in delicate health, or who might appear likely to become so.

Some complaints having been made as to the deficiency, or inappropriate nature of the medicines supplied, I annex a list of the contents contained in the Field Companions supplied to the Militia Battalions last summer, together with a list showing the contents of the Field Companions used in the Regular army.

List of contents of the Medicine Boxes furnished the Canadian Militia in 1871:

Calomel, Chloroform, Diarrhoea mixture, Ether Sulph, Fuller's earth, Morph Acet, Pil Cathartic Co, Pil Coloc Co, Pil Opil—1 gr.; Pil Opil—1/2 gr.; Plumbi Acet, Po. as Chlor.; Potas Nit., Pulv. Acacia, Pulv. Crota Co. c. Opio, Pulv. Ipecac Co., Pulv. Jalap Co., Spts. Ammon. Aromat, Tinct. Opil. Tinct. Zingib, Zinci Sulph, Calco Bandages Flannel Bandages, Supensory Bandages, Linen Sheeting, Calico, Lint, Cutta-Percha tissue, Oiled Silk, Cotton Wool, Adhesive Plaster, Sponges, Needles, Thread, Tourniquet, Tape, Scissors, Minim Measure, Scales and Weights, Spatula, Enema Syringe, Surgeon's Tow; Pins.

Contents of the Medical Field Companion used by the Regular Army:

Medicines.—Mixture for Diarrhoea and Cholera, 2 oz.; Chloroform, 2 oz.; Tinct Opil, 2 oz.; Spirit Ammonia Aromat, 2 oz. Pills—(Tins)—No. 7. Calomel gr. i. Pulv. Opil gr. i. in each. No. 8. Plumbi Acet. gr. iii. Pulv. Opil gr. i. in each. No. 9 Calomel gr. ii. Pil. Rhei Co et Pil Coloc Co. na gr. ii. in each. No. 10. Campher gr. iii. Pulv. Opil gr. ii. et Pulv. Cayenno gr. 1/2 in each. Four dozen of each kind. Powders—No. 1 Morph. Acet. gr. 1/2. Plumbi Acet. gr. iv. et Pulv. Acacia gr. ii. in each.—24. No. 2. Antim. Tart. gr. i. Pulv. Acacia gr. iii. in each. No. 3. Calomel gr. iii. Pulv. Jacobi i. v. et Pulv. Ipecac. Co. gr. xv. in each. 12 of each kind. No. 4. Pulv. Kino Co. i. scrupulo in each.—24. No. 5 Pulv. Crota Co. c. Opio ii. scrupules in each.—12. No. 6 Pulv. Jalap Co. ii scrupules in each.—12. Appliances—Calico rollers—2. Suspensory bandages—2. Clavical bandages—2. Strong calico—1/2 yard. Linen Sheet ing—1/2 yard. Lint—1/2 lb. Gutta Percha tissue—1/2 yard. Cotton Wool—1/2 lb. Isin glass plaster—1 yard. Adhesive plaster—1/2 yard Sponges, surgeons—2. Needles, surgeons—25. Whited brown thread—1/2 oz. Razor in case. Shaving soap—1 roll. Screw field tourniquet. Candle and wax matches.—Fins—1/2 paper. Tape—1 piece. Scissors—1 pair. Minim measure—1 Graduated horn cup—1.

From this it will be seen that the Canadian box is the more complete of the two.

An experienced Medical officer, resident for many years in Canada, and who had served for years in the Imperial Army, was consulted as to the nature of the medicines required, and his selection adopted; a very limited amount of money was available, and only the most necessary and least expensive medicines could be furnished. Inasmuch, however, as the climate and nature of the usual complaints differ considerably in the various districts of the Dominion, aguo prevailing much more in Western than in Eastern Canada, it would seem advisable to include Quinine in the lists of medicines, and steps are being taken to have the Field Companions more suitably and completely supplied for the coming season.

The medical arrangements last year were carried out Regimentally, and in view of possible accidents, all Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons were expected to take with them to the various Camps an ordinary pocket case of instruments.

The position at present of the Medical officers in the Militia is unsatisfactory to these gentlemen, and the organization of so important a branch as the Medical Department of an army is as yet very incomplete.

Medical officers on first appointment to Militia Corps, rank relatively with Lieutenants, after five years' service with Captains, Surgeons with Majors, but beyond this no higher relative rank is granted, nor does the present organization extend beyond a mere regimental system. In order therefore to establish the Medical Department on a proper basis more in harmony with the Military system of the country, and Army Medical necessities, I have to submit that it is desirable on these grounds:

1st. That a Medical Staff Officer of Militia should be nominated, if possible one who has served at least ten years in the Imperial Army.

2nd. That in each Military District the senior Medical officer should be nominated principal Medical Officer of the District.

3rd. That each Battalion should have one Surgeon and Assistant Surgeon, each Squadron of Cavalry one Surgeon or Assistant Surgeon, and each Battery of Artillery one Surgeon or Assistant Surgeon.

4th. In each Military District there should be four Surgeons and eight Assistant Surgeons on the Staff, who could be called in cases of emergency to go on detachment, or take temporary charge as may be directed.

5th. All Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons should, on their first appointment, produce deplas of legal qualification to practice, and should be licentiates of one of the recognized Colleges or Universities of the Dominion or of Great Britain as recognized by the Medical Board of Great Britain or Canada.

6th. That on appointment an Assistant Surgeon should rank relatively with a Lieutenant, after five years service with a Captain, Surgeons to rank with Majors, ranking relatively, and after ten years service to be nominated Surgeon Majors, ranking relatively with Lieutenant Colonel but junior of that rank. Staff Surgeons to hold the same relative positions as Regimental Medical officers.

7th. The Senior Medical officer of each district to be the District Principal Medical officer, and to rank relatively as Lt. Colonel, according to date of Commission, but it is distinctly to be understood, that relative rank confers no military status or command, it being only established for civil officers attached departmentally to an army, to regulate precedence as to choice of quarters, rates of pay, allowances, &c.

8th. That the rank of Surgeon Major should carry with it \$1 per diem additional pay to that of Surgeon, whenever Corps are embodied for Annual Drill or Actual Service, and that the Principal Medical Officer of the District should receive \$1 per diem more pay than a Surgeon Major on similar occasions.

9. That at other times than those of Annual Drill or Actual Service, whenever the Services of a District Principal Medical Officer is required for Boards of Examina-

tions, &c., a fee of \$5 be allowed, but that all returns or reports on Militia service be transmitted by him without extra pay.

10th. That in addition to the Field Companion supplied for every corps, a pair of Hospital Bandiers complete with medicines, &c., similar to those supplied to Military District No 10, be obtained for every District.

The Department not being in a position to supply medicine boxes to several corps attending camps of exercise for annual drill on the day of assembly, medical claims and charges have been forwarded in connection with such claims, many of which are considered excessive.

In selecting ground for the formation of Annual Camps of Exercise, it would be desirable that the District Principal Medical Officer charged with this duty with a view to securing the best sanitary site, and in the Western Peninsula of the Province of Ontario, care should be taken to encamp on high ground, so as to avoid as far as possible risk of aguo in that aguish district.

The adoption of the above recommendations for the Medical branch of the Service, would I feel sure result in a much more satisfactory organization.

(To be continued.)

The new torpedo boat, in course of construction at the Brooklyn Navy yard, has at present 40 men at work upon it in the new machine shop, where the keel is laid and the frame is being put up previous to removing it to the shed where it is to be completed. It will be built with a double bottom and on the bracket plate system, with longitudinal frames. It will be iron plated forward and will carry one heavy gun and be propelled by a "Fowler" wheel, the success of which will depend upon the speed it can produce. Its dimensions are—length 173 feet; breadth, 28 feet; depth, 13 feet. It is not expected to be completed for some time.

A despatch from Havana, May 11, reports that the Spanish man of war *Pizarro* has arrived at Santiago de Cuba from Aspinwall having abandoned her vigilance over the steamer *Virginus* at the latter port, on account of the arrival there of the United States steamer *Kansas*. After a consultation between the commander of the *Kansas* and the American consul at Aspinwall, the *Virginus* was declared an American ship, and her commander then hoisted the American flag. The instructions of the Spanish commander were to watch the *Virginus* as a blockade runner and this mission terminated on the acceptance of the responsibility of *Virginus* as an American ship, The *Virginus* left Aspinwall previous to the departure from that port of the *Pizarro*.

A Washington special says, at the Session of the Cabinet on Tuesday, the President said he had for months past deplored the inefficiency of our coast defence, and regretted that he could not do anything to strengthen them. After an interchange of opinion it was finally decided that every iron clad of the navy should be put in a condition for immediate service. The Secretary of War was also instructed to make coast defences and particularly on the Southern sea board as impregnable as possible. Order to fit out so many monitors at this time excites the suspicion that trouble is imminent to Spain. Information has reached the Navy Department that Morn Castle guarding the entrance to Havana Harbor is being rapidly strengthened, and that 15 inch guns pointing seaward are now being put in position.