

The Medical Chronicle.

LICET OMNIBUS, LICET NOBIS DIGNITATEM ARTIS MEDICÆ TUERI.

HEALTH OF THE SOLDIER IN CANADA.

Through the politeness of Dr. Henry, Inspector General of Hospitals, we have been favored with an examination of the "statistical reports of the sickness, mortality and invaliding among the troops in the United Kingdom, the Mediterranean, and British America; prepared from the records of the Army Medical Department and War Office returns, 1853." These reports are of a very elaborate nature, and drawn up in the most careful manner; abounding with information of an interesting character, and useful tendency. We are therefore thankful at having an opportunity of selecting for our readers the principal facts that have been noted in the sick career of the troops in Canada, during a period of 10 years' observation from 1837 to 1846, inclusive.

The admissions into hospital averaged 982, and the deaths 13 per 1000 annually. The fluctuations in the amount of sickness were less than even among the cavalry serving in the United Kingdom, notwithstanding the occurrence of certain causes in the earlier years mentioned hereafter, by which they were likely to be augmented. The maximum proportion of deaths was 16.7; it occurred in 1841-42, and was probably owing to the arrival of several regiments from the West Indies. Contrasted with the antecedent term of 20 years, the mortality was nevertheless lower in the proportion of 13 to 16.1 per thousand. This diminution is partly referred to the absence of epidemic cholera in the latter years, by which a loss averaging 2.1 per 1000 was sustained in the former. But other causes must also have co-operated, as improved treatment, and so on, for after making the necessary deduction for cholera, the decrease is nearly 1 per 1000. This is the more remarkable, as it is asserted the soldiers sent to Canada since 1836 were not so well fitted to contend against disease as their predecessors.

The violent and sudden deaths were 302; a proportion of more than double that of any of the Mediterranean stations. Of these deaths the greatest number were from drowning, 123; apoplexy, 38; and intoxication, 25. The cases of suicide were exceedingly few, only 20.

Fevers of the intermittent type were reduced in number to one-third, owing, probably to the gradual extension of cultivation, improvement in drainage, and other local causes. At Sandwich, C.W., 269 cases occurred in 1839, out of a force of 179 men. It and Chatham were aban-