

continued to advocate it week after week in articles transferred from his own journal to the papers of the day. His vigorous and persistent arguments eventually carried conviction with them, and when a little later the still more important appointment of Coroner for the western division of Middlesex, including the larger part of the Metropolis, fell vacant, he was triumphantly elected to the office.

Now, it is not too much to affirm, that even Mr. Wakley, with all his acknowledged ability, and indomitable energy of character, would have failed to effect this revolution in public opinion, which has thrown open the office of Coroner to medical men throughout the British Empire, with the single exception, we are inclined to believe, of Lower Canada, if he had not had a medical press at his command, through which he could address his arguments to the public, and this again shows the value of such a medium of communication to the profession, and to the public at large.

But it is not only in opening new avenues to preferment that the value of a Medical press is felt by the profession. It may be necessary that Editorial notice should be taken in respect to patronage already appertaining to the profession. Our last number recorded the death of Dr. Sampson, the Medical Officer of the Provincial Penitentiary. Our next number, if one appears, will probably record the name of his successor. Dr. Sampson filled the important office of Surgeon to this great public Institution for twenty-six years. His annual salary was raised from £200 per annum, the amount named in the statute, to £400 per annum. At this latter rate the appointment would be considered one of the prizes of the provincial profession. The duties do not require more time for their performance than ordinary hospital duties. The practice we are told is partly, perhaps principally, surgical. In an institution of nearly a thousand inmates, employed in workshops, with every modern appliance of machinery, accidents and injuries are likely to be of not uncommon occurrence. The Medical Officer of such an institution should be an expert and accomplished Surgeon. He has to pronounce when a culprit is fit to receive corporal punishment, and must watch its administration, and should be a man of nerve; he has to come in contact with idle skulkers ready to simulate disease and even to put themselves to bodily pain and suffering to escape the labor to which they are sentenced, and to foil such efforts at deception, he must be a man of good judgment, firmness, and discrimination. He has to aid in the reformation of criminals and outcasts from our own and other lands, and should be possessed of humane and kindly feelings: he has to frame statistical returns of the influence of crime and of want upon disease, and should be a man of information and intelligence. In short as the duties are not ordinary duties, so the qualifications of the Surgeon to be appointed, should be more than ordinary qualifications.

It is understood that more than one of the practitioners of Kingston have assisted during the long incumbency of the late Dr. Sampson, in the performance of the duties. There are able surgeons in the city fully competent to the duties of the office. We hope the right man will be selected, and that merit, and not political influence, will decide the selection. It is said the Executive have decided to bestow the appointment at the lesser income on Dr. J. R. Dickson, the