

same day, the candidate has to undergo a practical examination in the hospital, diagnosing and prescribing for the different diseases, and surgical cases before him. If successful in this examination, he is appointed to the Corps of Reserve or Staff surgeons.

Washington, D. C., September 19th, 1862.

(An examination such as the foregoing, is undoubtedly, if faithfully carried out, competent to secure for the U. S. army the highest talent on the Continent, but we must confess to some misgivings that such examinations prove the exception and not the rule. If we are wrong, we can hardly account for the singular denouement of surgical practice contained in the following extract from the *Boston Post*, a paper which we believe is usually well informed upon most subjects. The subject is even, we suspect, hinted at in the reported proceedings of the "Providence Medical Association," held on the 18th September last. At the distance we are from the scene of warfare, distorted accounts of medical and surgical practice have reached us, and these to an alarming extent. Knowing as we well do the high scientific attainments of the gentlemen holding high professional positions in that army, we are sure that such blunders could not possibly occur with them or their immediate subordinates. The following is the extract to which we have alluded:—

"LINT A SOURCE OF MISCHIEF.—A writer to the *Boston Post*, who is probably a surgeon, says: "Every ounce of lint sent to the army does mischief. Its only use is to cover up the blunders of bad surgery. It is seldom used by the best surgeons here. In the army it is crowded into wounds by men who know no other way to stop hemorrhage, and there it remains till it becomes filled with filth and maggots. It retains the discharges till they putrify, and produces intolerable stench. The termination of its work is the death of the patient."

We regret much to state that Dr. Pattee, the writer of the foregoing communication, has been brought home to this country, labouring under a serious attack of Hæmoptisis, induced we are told by the arduous duties of the hospital practice in which he was engaged. After examination he had been appointed an assistant-surgeon, and then a surgeon, and, at the cessation of his duties, was in charge of a large hospital at Washington.—*Ed. B. A. J.*)

ART. XLIX.—*Analysis of 100 Ophthalmic cases, showing the comparative frequency of the various diseases of the eye in Hamilton.* Contributed by A. M. ROSEBRUGH, M.D., Hamilton, C. W.

Thinking it would be interesting to the readers of the JOURNAL, I have transcribed from my case book the diagnosis of 100 cases of disease of the eye as they came under my observation during the months of March, April, May, June and July, 1862, in the city of Hamilton.

From observations made during a period of about three years, I am led to believe that the analyses of these 100 cases will give at least an approximate idea of the percentage in which the various diseases of the eye exist in Canada West.