

APPOINTMENTS.—Dr. Fred W. Borden, of Caning, N.S., has been appointed surgeon to the 68th Kings' Co. Infantry, *vice* Dr. Shaw, deceased, and Dr. H. B. Webster, of Kentville, N.S., assistant-surgeon. Dr. Samuel Primrose, of Lawrence-town, N.S., is to have the rank of surgeon-major of the 69th 1st Annapolis Infantry, from Sept. 10th, 1883.

Dr. H. Merrill has been appointed attending physician at the Hotel Dieu, Montreal—G. W. Anglin, M.D., Kingston, has been appointed house surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.—Dr. Coburn has been appointed medical and statistical health officer for Fredericton, N.B.

Dr. W. H. Henderson, of Kingston, has been elected a life member of the Ophthalmological Society of Great Britain and Ireland. He has also been recently appointed to the chair of Histology in the Kingston Medical School. We regard the appointment as a good one, and calculated to reflect credit upon the school.

THE BULWER TRAGEDY.—Contrary to general expectation, the jury in this case acquitted Mrs. Coates of the murder of her husband by the administration of strychnine. The evidence pointed very strongly to the guilt of the woman, and the judge charged strongly for conviction; but the jury ignored his charge and acquitted the prisoner, because there was a doubt on their minds, owing to alleged carelessness in conducting the *post mortem*, as to whether the husband's death was caused by poisoning from strychnine, or from tetanus. It is an unusual thing for criminal charges to fall through from carelessness on the part of medical men in the conduct of *post mortem* examinations, and while we do not believe there was such carelessness as was alleged, we trust this case may be a warning and incentive to all who may be called upon in such cases to do their work most thoroughly and carefully.

PERSONALS—Dr. J. Workman, of Toronto, was elected an honorary member of the Italian Phreniatric Society, at its 4th Congress, held in the city of Voghera, between 16th and 22nd September.

Dr. Picault, of Montreal, was given a banquet on the 20th of September, by the French societies of the city, in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of his arrival in Canada.

Dr. H. J. Harrison has commenced practice in Cornwall, Ont.—Dr. W. Thornton is about to commence practice in New Richmond, Que.—G. S. Beck, M.D., M.R.C.S., Eng., of Peterboro, has returned from Europe.

THE HOMEWOOD RETREAT.—This is the name of a new private asylum for insane, just completed, in the city of Guelph, Ont. It will be under the charge of Dr. Lett, former assistant-superintendent of the Toronto Lunatic Asylum. Mr. Langmuir, former inspector of asylums, is president of the association. It is, we believe, now open for the reception of patients, and will accommodate about 50. Full particulars may be obtained on application to Dr. Lett, Asylum, Toronto. We commend the institution to the favorable consideration of the profession in Canada.

INSTANCES OF EXTRAORDINARY FECUNDITY.—F. P. Atkinson, Surbiton, Eng., publishes in the *British Medical Journal* for Sept. 15, 1883, the case of a lady of good position, who was married at sixteen and died at sixty-four, who had *thirty-nine* children all by the same husband. There were thirty-two daughters and seven sons with only two sets of twins. All the children attained their majority.

In the London Hospital Reports, Vol. I., 1864, it is reported that Mrs. W., now a nurse in the Hospital, was married in 1839, at 21 years of age. In nineteen years (*i.e.* in 1858), she had borne *twenty* children, *viz.*, eight single births, three times twins, and triplets twice.

CHROMIC ACID AS A CAUSTIC.—Dr. Squibb says chromic acid is a valuable caustic, "because it is self-limiting in its action in a degree that no other destructive caustic is. It is an active oxidizing agent and destroys the tissues to which it is applied by oxidation. In this respect it is like other caustics, as nitric acid. But every molecule of chromic acid which destroys a molecule of organic tissue is itself destroyed and rendered inert by being reduced to an insoluble oxide of chromium; and this principle and degree of self-limitation is not obtained from any other caustic."

HARVARD CENTENNIAL.—The centennial celebration of this well-known medical school was held on the 17th ult., and was a most successful