

# Canada Medical Journal.

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OTTAWA, July 20th, 1866.

The Commander-in-Chief is pleased to direct that henceforward all applications for the post of Surgeon or Assistant Surgeon in the Volunteer Militia shall be accompanied by an intimation that the applicant is ready to pass an examination of fitness before a regularly constituted Board of Medical Officers of the Regular Army. And no appointment to the post of Surgeon or Assistant Surgeon in the Volunteer Militia will be made without a certificate of qualification from such Board of Examination.

The above General Order appeared in the *Canada Gazette* of a recent date, and, as the representative of the profession in Canada, we enter our most earnest protest against it. For the Militia authorities to imagine, for a single moment, that those who hereafter apply for the post of Surgeon or Assistant-Surgeon, will submit to a professional examination before a board of medical officers of the regular army, is it to look for what we believe, will never come, or we very much mistake both the spirit and the temper of the Medical profession of this Province. It may be argued, that Medical men, although possessing qualifications from Universities and Colleges, are compelled to pass a second examination previous to being appointed Assistant-Surgeon in Her Majesty's regular service, and it may have been a desire to follow the example of the Imperial Government that has led our Minister of Militia to issue the above General Order. But the cases are so very opposite, as hardly to admit of comparison. In the case of the regular army, the applicant for the commission of Assistant-Surgeon, is invariably fresh from his *alma mater*, his knowledge all theoretical, and he presents himself before a Board composed of some of the first medical men of the United Kingdom. Should he be judged capable, he is sent to Netley Hospital, where he undergoes a training specially adapted to the service which he has just entered, and concerning which he obtained but little knowledge, while attending his ordinary University or College lectures. But, with the volunteer Medical officer, how different. As we glance over on the list of Surgeons and Assistant-Surgeons of the Volunteer Force of Canada, we find that most of them were men of position and experience, long before they accepted their commission. Had the above order been in force, when they got their appointment, it is folly to imagine that they would have submitted to an examination. And even the younger members of the Volunteer Medical force, with their qualifications attested to by the well-