

THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD

A Monthly Journal of Medicine and Surgery.

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SUBSCRIPTION TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

All communications and Exchanges must be addressed to the Editors, Drawer 356, Post Office, Montreal.

MONTREAL, NOVEMBER, 1884.

THE MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL.

At the quarterly meeting of the Life Governors of this Institution, held on the 12th instant, there was a very large attendance. This was in anticipation of the election of Drs. Gardner and Major, to the position respectively, of Gynecologist and Laryngologist to the Hospital, and also the election of two gentlemen to replace them on the Outdoor Staff. The candidates for these vacancies were Drs. Bell, Blackader and Campbell. To understand perfectly the situation it must be stated that it was necessary to pass new by-laws, creating two specialists, before Drs. Gardner and Major could receive the position of specialists which they desire. At the same time, it was intended to so amend the by-laws as to call the Outdoor Staff, Assistant Physicians and Surgeons. In August last, at the quarterly meeting, these amended by-laws were submitted. There was considerable opposition to their being passed at that meeting, not because of direct opposition to the changes proposed, but because it has generally been understood that the August meeting will not transact any but ordinary routine business. This tacit understanding was arrived at on account of the fact that so many Governors are generally absent from the city at that time. The Medical Governors were, however, in a majority at that meeting, and most unwisely, we believe, insisted on a vote being taken. They carried their point, and the amended by-laws were passed. To make them legal they require to be also passed by the Corporation of the Hospital. This body consists of all persons who contribute five dollars yearly

to the Institution. By advertisement, a meeting of this body was called for half an hour later than that at which the Governors met. In point of fact no members of Corporation presented themselves other than the Governors already in session, and that body, at the proper time, converted themselves from Governors to members of Corporation, and the meeting so constituted proceeded to business. The amended by-laws were then submitted and passed. No one questioned the legality of the proceedings, and as the November quarterly meeting drew near the various candidates entered upon a most energetic canvas. We have already said that we believe the action of the Medical Governors in forcing a vote in August against the wishes of many of the Lay Governors was a mistake. The sequel proves that our opinion is correct. Their action was very generally discussed and as generally condemned. The result was that the evening previous to the November quarterly meeting Mr. D. A. P. Watt, a Governor of the Hospital, who has always taken a warm interest in the institution, notified the President, Mr. Andrew Robertson, that he would protest against any election taking place, upon the ground that the by-laws had been illegally passed. Mr. Watt held that the meeting of the Corporation was illegal, inasmuch as no provision was made in the by-laws of the Hospital for holding special meetings of Corporation. The President at once submitted the question to Mr. S. Bethune, Q.C., the Counsel of the Hospital, and only a few hours before the time the Governors were to assemble for the purpose of election, received his reply. This was read to the meeting, and endorsed fully the objection which Mr. Watt had raised. The President therefore ruled that an election could not take place, and the meeting very wisely endorsed his ruling. There was much disappointment of course on all sides, but the general feeling was that, in the face of the opinion expressed by Mr. Bethune, it would have been most unwise to have acted contrary to it. The large meeting then adjourned. The matter must lie in abeyance till next May, when the by-laws will again be submitted to the Governors and subsequently to the annual meeting of the Corporation. We have no doubt but that both these bodies will pass them.

While writing upon the Montreal General Hospital we may say that much surprise is