

influence of ether is much more passive, and therefore in a far better condition for an operation than one under chloroform. Besides, ether when administered without food in the stomach, rarely gives rise to troublesome sickness. Both in private and hospital practice in this city for several years past, ether has very largely taken the place of chloroform, and the results have been most satisfactory.

#### ONTARIO BOARD OF HEALTH.

Several weeks have elapsed since the appointment of the chairman and members of the Ontario Board of Health, but up to the present time no appointment of a secretary has been made. This is to be regretted, as there is much work awaiting the action of the board. It is especially desirable that efforts be made as soon as possible to organize local boards of health in every municipality in the Province, in order that some sanitary work may be done in all the villages before the heated season. Wherefore the delay in the appointment?

We have no desire to dictate in any degree to the Government, even in a matter concerning the public health, but feel it incumbent upon us to say a few words in regard to the appointment. The gentleman who is not only most fairly entitled to the position, but who is also, probably, upon the whole, the most fully qualified to discharge the duties of the office, is, we understand, prepared to accept it, and at once to commence practical work. We need hardly say we allude to Dr. Playter. But for his untiring efforts it is not at all probable there would yet have been any provision for such a board. It was almost entirely through his efforts during the past two or three sessions of the Legislature, that the medical men in the House took such action as led the Government to bring in a measure providing for the establishment of a board. Through his efforts several meetings of members of the profession were held in this city for the purpose of urging the desirability of such a measure upon the Government. He also, for the most part, framed the various resolutions which have been passed from time to time by the medical Associations of the Province and the Dominion, urging this subject upon the attention of the Dominion and Local Governments. All this would not, of course, entitle him to the position were he not considered competent to discharge

the duties. But from letters of recommendation we have before us, from leading medical men in the profession and others, we feel certain that the majority of the profession not only consider him quite competent, but regard him as the most competent, on account of the experience he has had in sanitary work. He has given greater consideration and study to the special work which is to engage the attention of the board, than any other man in Canada. He has also had a good deal to do with the vital statistics of the Province, in the Registrar-General's Department for a number of years in connection with the preparation of the annual report, and the general decennial review appended to the last annual report is entirely his work. This is an interesting and valuable report considering the imperfect nature of the materials available. Dr. Playter has written a good deal on public health, and his work has generally been well received, and through his labors he has become known in the United States as well as throughout Canada, as a prominent sanitarian. He has also made some useful investigations into the causes of consumption, one of the most important diseases with which the board will have to deal.

#### VOLUNTARY POWER OF DISLOCATION.

A short time ago we had an opportunity of witnessing a most remarkable and interesting case of voluntary dislocation. The subject of this wonderful peculiarity is an American acrobat and contortionist named Chas. H. Warren. He visited the various medical colleges in the United States and Canada during the past winter, and exhibited his wonderful powers before the classes. He is at present in London, England, and the *London Lancet*, April 8th, '82, gives the following description of his wonderful powers. A history and careful study of this remarkable case will also be found in Dr. Frank Hamilton's work on "Fractures and Dislocations," 1880, page 807.

"By voluntary muscular contraction he dislocates forwards either or both condyles of the lower jaw, downwards (partially) the head of each humerus, forwards or backwards (partially) each carpus, upwards and backwards (completely) the head of each femur, and backwards and forwards (partially) each of the phalanges of the fingers and thumb. With the aid of his hand he partially dislocates to