

inclusive, there were only three deaths from small-pox, in a total mortality of 627. During the same period, among the troops of Gibraltar, the aggregate strength being 44,611, and a total mortality of 1,291, there occurred only one death from small-pox. At Bermuda, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Cape of Good Hope, and the Mauritius, there were no deaths from small-pox for twenty years, and in Western Africa, where the unprotected population was dying by hundreds, there were no deaths from the disease among the troops stationed in that region of country. It is thus shown conclusively, that since the introduction of vaccination, the rate of mortality has been reduced in those portions of the world where the operation has been enforced.

THE COUNCIL AND EXAMINING BOARD.

In another place will be found the report of the proceedings of the meeting of the Medical Council of Ontario, which was held in Toronto, early last month. The meeting was much more orderly and business-like than any which has taken place for many years past. Almost the first business, after the election of the President and Vice-President, was the appointment of a committee to investigate the irregularities, which took place last spring, in connection with the examining board. This committee sat with closed doors, and examined such evidence as was voluntarily adduced, the majority of the witnesses being members of the examining board. The report which was submitted to the Council and adopted, showed, even on the strength of such evidence as was to be obtained from voluntary witnesses, that certain irregularities did take place; their exact nature however was not stated. The names of two gentlemen were mentioned in this connection, one of whom is outside the Council, and the other formerly a prominent member, but who seems suddenly to have lost cast entirely. Only a few months ago he was so strong in the confidence of the members of the Council, that he was appointed examiner in no less than three different subjects. It was hardly to be expected that any ordinary person could examine so many papers from Friday afternoon until the following Tuesday, much less a man of Dr. Berryman's well known unpunctuality. We are therefore constrained to

ask, why was he appointed to so many branches? He himself says it was because he was the only competent person. The evidence of misconduct or irregularity on the part of these two gentlemen has not been made public, therefore we are unable to form any opinion, on the merits of the case, but the belief has been publicly expressed that they have been made the *scapegoats* on this occasion, not by the committee (far be it from us to say one word derogatory to the committee), but by those who gave evidence before the committee.

With reference to the examining board, the profession will observe that its constitution is slightly changed, but not to the extent required. The appointment of Dr. Workman as examiner in midwifery is highly to be commended, and there is not one word can be said personally against those members of the Council who have been appointed, or rather who assisted in appointing themselves, on the examining board. They are quite competent to act as examiners, although not better qualified than many outsiders that could be named. It is the principle involved in these appointments that is objected to. It certainly does not look well, to say the least, for these gentlemen to vote for their own appointment in one motion, and then turn round in a few minutes afterwards and vote themselves each one hundred dollars for performing the duty. There are three principal grounds of objections against this system of appointment. 1st. It creates a monopoly in the Council, and destroys its character as an appellate body. 2nd. The gentlemen appointed from the Council have a voice in their own appointment. 3rd. They have the power to vote themselves whatever sum they please, as remuneration for their services.

The schoolmen, with a disinterestedness which is highly creditable to them, have given way to professional opinion so far as to appoint, those examiners who represent the schools, from without the Council. We have, therefore, the territorial men chiefly to blame for the continuance of a system which is utterly repugnant to the profession. Dr. Allison and those who voted with him (see list), deserve the thanks of the profession for the noble stand they took on behalf of the profession. Some of those who expressed themselves privately, as opposed to the principle, gave way in the end to the wirepullers and allowed this iniquitous principle to be continued yet another year.