The Jubilee Hospital Board

More Accommodation for Both Patients and Nurses Is Required.

Various Topics Discussed at the Meeting of the Directors.

In the absence of the president and the vice-president, Mr. Joshua Davies took the chair at the meeting of the board of hospital directors held in the board of trade rooms last night. Amongst those present were Messrs. A. Wilson, I. Braverman, E. A. Lewis, B. Gordon, R. L. Drury, R. S. Day, and Thomas Shotbolt, together with Dr. Hasell. The minutes of the previous meeting being read by the secretary, were then approved.

A letter from Mrs. Hasell, president of the Daughters of Pity, regarding the holding of a Christmas tree and a seasonable celebration at the hospital, was read. To this project the objection was taken that it had a disturbing effect upon the patients. This was not discussed, however, and the matter was referred to the house committee, with power to act.

From Dr. Hasell's report for November it appeared that 57 new patients had been admitted to the institution during that month, and a total of 105 had been treated. The total number of 1,554 days meant a daily average of 47 patients in the hospital, at a cost of $1.57 per day. Filled.

Matron Grady's report acknowledged the receipt of a large donation of clothing and other articles from the Women's Auxiliary, as well as gifts from Miss Drake and Mrs. Potts. The report was received, and the donors are to be thanked.

Steward Jenkinson reported the gift of six boxes of apples and six bags of potatoes from Mr. Henry Runkle, of Salt Spring Island, for which the thanks of the board were directed to be tendered. The steward also presented the report of the piggery. Six pigs bought in the early part of the season had been recently sold for $79.22, at a profit of $62.72. "It pays to keep pigs," remarked Director Wilson.

The report of the finance committee recommended the payment of salaries amounting to $710.24, and a total disbursement of $1,737.66, all of which was approved. Over a bill of $98, the funeral expenses of the late Hospital Clerk Oakden, a long discussion took place. The majority of the board thought that the bill should be paid from some life insurance which was rumored to have covered the clerk, or that his people in England should liquidate the liability, and the matter was then left to the proper committee.

The house committee reported upon various repairs, costing some $47.50, and recommending some others, which were immediately sanctioned. The report also contained a comparative statement of the cost of lighting, which for the past four months ranged $24.57, $43.95, $84.87, and $81.18, as against $68.12, $60.16, $82.24, and $94.87 for the corresponding months of the year 1899. Regarding the extra nursing, it was shown that fully 80 per cent. of it had been paid for by the patients enjoying the service; while to account for the larger butchers' and grocers' bills, it appeared that 370 meals had been served to nurses and visitors, most of which had been paid for. Mr. Williams' appointment to the office of clerk was confirmed, at the salary and terms of his predecessor.

Amongst the other business coming up was the removal of the 165-foot flagstaff, the gift to the hospital from the Chemainus Mill Co., from its present position in the water at Sayward's mill to the hospital grounds. This was left in the hands of the grounds committee, with power to act at once, tenders for its removal to be called for without further delay.

Some informal discussion followed upon the question of providing further accommodation at the hospital. This appeared to be needed both for patients and for staff. None of the old plans appeared to be missing, and there was a conflict of opinion as to whether a second story or an additional wing were the better method of securing the end desired. A rumor was voiced that possibly the federated societies were about to offer to erect a wing, and it was stated that the government had under consideration the introduction of a bill regarding legislative aid in the erection and extension of these institutions. The matter was referred to the house committee for immediate action.

The chairman called attention to an advertisement in last Tuesday's Colonist of the Federal Life Insurance Co., offering to the hospital 20 per cent. of all first premiums upon policies written by Agent Bagshawe during the current month. This was wholly unauthorized by the board, as the agent had at once acknowledged when seen by some of the directors, who had then informed him that they did not consider that the Jubilee hospital should be used to bolster up his company.

It was also reported that Indian Agent Vowell had arranged to transfer to St. Joseph's hospital a two-year-old child brought in by Dr. Ernest Hall and a Methodist missionary from the reserve. The little fellow's leg had been badly broken, and he had already been an inmate of the Jubilee for ten weeks, and would require attention for six or seven more. Dr. Hall had been attending the sufferer free, but the patient had also been taken from his care and placed in that of Dr. Jones. The reason given was that at the other institution a $7 rate could be had instead of $10 per week, as the Indian department had arranged to pay at the Royal Jubilee. The matter was left to the proper committee.

Arrangements were made for paying the salaries of the staff a day or two before Christmas, and the meeting then adjourned.

"A burglar carried off one of our turnkeys."

"You don't say so?"

"Yes; and he left a note saying that he left us the other so we would have something to be thankful for."—Detroit Free Press.

"I see that your teacher is going to be married, Bobbie. I thought you were going to marry her when you grew up?"

"Well, I may yet. She's from Chicago, you know."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Does your wife boil your drinking water?"

"Yes, and we never had any real enjoyment until she did."

"And so you really enjoy drinking it?"

"We don't drink it; she throws it on our neighbor's thirsty dog."—Denver News.

Taxes Claimed By The City

Sums for Which the Dominion Goverment Tenants are Being Sued.

Expectations That the Ottawa Authorities Will pay the Amounts.

The writs issued by Messrs. Mason & Bradburn, as solicitors for the city, against the tenants of Dominion government property for the payment of the city taxes thereon for 1900, aggregate in all the fair-sized sum of $1,300. There were six of them all told, viz., against Cyrus H. Bowes, chemist, for $275.50; Frank Campbell, tobacconist, $179.55; Royds & Nevin, bicycle supplies, etc., $251.38; and Danes & Rockhabers, tonsorial artists, $263.50, all being occupants of portions of the old post office block on Government street. Two other cases come from the Indian reserve, where a similar lot of conditions affect the holdings of Messrs. P. Everett and J. C. Bales, the amount of taxes claimed in these cases being $152 and $233.41 respectively.

From the city solicitors it was learned yesterday that these taxes are claimed only on behalf of the portions of the premises occupied by the respective parties. Under the Municipal Clauses Act, Dominion government property is usually exempt from municipal taxation; but when occupied by parties other than Dominion government officials, taxes for proportionate amounts may be imposed, although the land itself cannot be charged with them. These tenants, it is urged, are competitors of others in their trade for the business of the town, and if relieved of taxation, through the nature of their tenancies, would be given an unfair advantage, while at the same time enjoying all the privileges and protection afforded by the city.

Several of them have retained Messrs. Langley & Martin for their defence; but it is expected that the cases will not be carried far forward before the Canadian government makes good this amount, which, it is understood, they promised some time ago to pay.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

THE SAANICH AGRICULTURISTS—NO APOLOGY.

Sir:—At a Dominion political meeting held in the Saanich Agricultural hall at the beginning of last month I was allowed by the chairman a while on the candidates' platform, and after expressing my view on agricultural matters, upon reaching the floor I was fronted by the treasurer of the S. A. C., who asked me point blank "whether I was the author of a certain letter which appeared in the local papers." He took me so sudden that I really had no idea what letter he was alluding to, and eventually I told him no, I was not the author. Then it struck me that the letter he was referring to was one of some time ago, headed the same as this, and signed "A Spectator." I then hailed him back and declined to make public that I was the writer, and told to make believe that I was not. If a man wishes the public to know the writer of his letter, he will sign his name, but otherwise, he will use a non de plume; it is done so all over the world. I am not the only man that makes that practice, and I deem it an insult to be asked such a question as the treasurer put to me that evening. I was in a funny fix, either had to tell a lie, which is against the law; or tell the truth, which, of course, I did not want, or I should have signed my name, or have declined to say either yes or no, which, of course, would have proved about the same as saying yes. The treasurer went so far as to say "If you are the writer of the letter you had better write to the papers and apologize." It has been my intention to attend to this matter before, but time has not allowed it. Now comes the time, although I must say that I think the treasurer is the man that should apologize to me. I have now hunted up an old paper, dated October 5, in which I find the letter alluded to, and having read it through and through, and am now busy scratching my head in perplexity, wondering what part of it I am to apologize for. Before going any further, allow me to state that I am no man to hide behind the bush, when asked to come out, and I hereby acknowledge that I was the author of the letter alluded to, but my hardest task seems yet to come. Perhaps he intends me to apologize for stating that the day proved finer than did the show; no, I don't think that can be the part; it will glance further down. The stock, I said, was a poor turnout; that is a matter of opinion. Am I to apologize for that? The stock are in the country, but for some reason or other there was not sufficient at the show to feed the multitude. Then I said we had to thank the kind people of the city for a big crowd; well, I shall not apologize for that. And as for the potato question, they were my potatoes, and all that was said about them was perfectly true. It was not my intention to hurt the feelings of the kind people that assisted in the exhibition. What was said was not intended to injure the society, but to the contrary. As the matter runs now, there are not more than three farmers out of every hundred in the district that patronize the show, and why is it? When a man exhibits, he exhibits for justice, and as far as I am concerned, in hopes of being beaten, the better the produce in the district, the better I like it. But a man does not patronize a show to be made a toy of. It is my opinion that I did not receive justice, otherwise I should have saved my pen and ink. Upon glancing down to the bottom of that dreadful, insulting letter, I think perhaps I have come to the part in which I am supposed to apologize for. It is this: "The Saanich agricultural exhibition is turning into a matter of two or three hours of athletic sports, got up to bring a crowd." Well that is rather hard on them, but I will leave it for the public to decide whether I am right or wrong, and in the meantime, my apology is just this—

They can talk as they like,
For that I don't care,
It was all perfectly true
And correct, I declare.
And I'll swing by my neck,
On a noble Saanich fir,
Ere I'll take back
One word I wrote there.

H. T. OLDFIELD.

"Women, as a class, have no regard for punctuality."

"Tisn't that at all. I know plenty of women, who, if they have an engagement at 3 o'clock, are all ready and sitting on the edge of a chair by 1:30."—Indianapolis Journal.

Lady Mary's Strategy.

(Goldwin Smith, in New York Sun.)

When the engagement of Lady Mary Applegate to Sir Robert Black was announced, most of the young lady's friends asked one another how on earth she managed to catch him.

For Sir Robert Black, Bart., of Radcot, owner of a great fortune and man of good family, was not only amiable, agreeable and accomplished, but, at the age of thirty-five, was looked upon as one of the lights of the Liberal party and likely to reach great position in the state if and when that hapless party came into power again; while Lady Mary was the almost penniless sister of the Earl of Potter Heigham, whose poverty caused him to spend most of his time outside his native country.

"How on earth did she manage to catch him?" they asked one another. "She's twenty-seven, only passably good looking, and every one knows that for years she has been unsuccessfully striving to find a desirable husband."

"I wonder," said her dear friend, Lady Hickling, "whether poor Sir Robert knows that dear Mary has had a shot at half the eligibles in London; that she became a Roman Catholic in the hope of catching Lord Thursie, that she turned Protestant again when pursuing Sir William Mundesley, that she golfed at poor Francis Slapton, fished at the Duke of Torcross, 'slummed' at Lord Cantle, acted at Freddy Faringdon, and in fact, has been all things to all eligibles except wife."

Lady Hickling does not know—indeed, no one save Lady Mary Black and this chronicler knows—by what means Lady Mary caught her husband. Here is the plain and rather ugly true tale. Lady Mary met Sir Robert in August at the Lechlades', where there was a big house party. When she arrived she found that two girls, prettier and younger than herself, and helped by mothers, were courting Sir Robert. The lookout seemed bad, and the poor orphan was in despair until she perceived that she had mere bunglers to compete with—girls, one of whom thought that a pretty face and exaggerated demureness would win the day, whilst the other relied upon good looks and slangy liveliness of manner.

A chat with her old friend, the Hon. Charlie Wriothesley, showed Lady Mary that the way to Sir Robert's good books was through Blue Books, and that she must pose as a serious, intelligent young woman in order to have any chance. The butler was surprised to find her at six o'clock one morning in the library gravely studying Hansard; the housemaid was amazed to discover political books in her bedroom, and whenever The Times was missing the hostess said: "I expect dear Mary has it."

Sir Robert soon took an interest in the intelligent, well dressed, pleasant looking, if hardly handsome girl, who listened eagerly to his most serious conversation and surprised him with the range of her knowledge and soundness of her judgment agreeing with all his views and her thoughtful discussion. On one occasion she amazed him by quoting some sentences from a speech which first brought him into prominence, and her bewildering avowal that she had studied his career because he seemed to be the most picturesque figure in modern politics caused him one of the keenest pleasures of his life. Yet, after a fortnight, Lady Mary felt that she was making no progress. She guessed, and guessed correctly, that the other girls—or, at least, their mothers—were at the bottom of the matter. Sir Robert was far too busy with politics to know much about society or his gossip, and Mary was right in her assumption that he at first would be ignorant of everything about her or her rivals and their allies from telling her tales concerning her and her hunting for a husband, and although, research for a husband, and although, relying upon what he assumed to be his judgment of human character, Sir Robert disbelieved nearly all that was told to him, there remained in his mind an unpleasant feeling that Lady Mary Applegate might be a charming, intelligent young lady, but was also a dangerous flirt and a schemer.

When Lady Mary guessed the difficulty there were many frowns upon the white forehead which she displayed more lavishly to Sir Robert than to any previous object of her pursuit, and her well cut, rather large mouth, her best feature, pursed itself up time after time as she wondered and planned. A while she wondered and planned. A week went by. Lady Mary was in despair. She recognized with pain the fact that not only was she unlikely to succeed, but also that for the first time in her life she was trying to win something by my shame, forced me to go on reading. It was an unmanly thing to do; it was the meanest act of my life."

He drew the letter out of his pocket and held it with trembling fingers. Lady Mary showed very violent emotion—real, honest emotion; she was at the great moment of her life and had not the least idea what was going to happen.

"Give me my letter," she said, in a broken voice. "I know I can trust in your honor, Sir Robert."

"In my honor, after having acted so dishonorably?"

"I am sure," she replied, "you were so taken by surprise as to be acting half unconsciously. Give me my letter."

The girl looked beautiful; the shadow of the tree softened the lines of her face, her eyes were flashing with excitement, her cheeks burned.

"I will give you your letter only on one condition," he answered.

"A condition?"

"Yes, that you give me the writer."

She uttered a little cry, then was dumb and turned pale.

"And if you give me the writer," he continued, "I may as well keep the letter, which will be my greatest treasure save one." He put the letter to his lips and then stretched out his hand toward her.

Lady Mary Black, no doubt, caught her husband by a trick, but he has an intelligent, loving woman as a wife, and she devotes her brains and her heart to the task of making the politician prosperous and the man happy.

"He's been appointed to the police force, after all!"

"The idea of trying to make a copper out of such a bad penny!"—Detroit Journal.

Frosche—I suppose you are willing to admit that golf is an intellectual pastime?

Bunker—Yes, in about the same sense that cheese is an athletic game.—Boston Transcript.

"Did she take anything when she left her husband's house?"

"Nothing but her departure."

"Then I was misinformed."

"In what way?"

"I understood she took her maiden name."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

NAVAL NEWS.

Officers Go to Join Rear-Admiral Beaumont—Imperieuse Refitting—Condor's Stormy Passage.

Capt. T. P. Walker, of H. M. S. Warspite, who in company with several other officers from the Esquimalt fleet go to join Rear-Admiral Beaumont on the Australian station, left for their new base Friday. Captain Walker wife and son left by the Charmer for England, wishing to visit home friends before going out to the colonies. The other officers—Private Secretary H. H. Share, Lieut. B. A. Pratt-Barlow, E. H. McA. Dyer, W. J. Kilpatrick and Arthur R. Addy—leave by the Warrimoo for Sydney. More of the private effects of Rear-Admiral Beaumont are to be despatched by the steamer. W. Gillies, a paymaster from the Esquimalt fleet, was a passenger East yesterday with Capt. Walker. He has been transferred to a training ship at one of the home dockyards.

H. M. S. Phaeton, it is reported, will sail for the South on Tuesday.

H. M. S. Imperieuse, the late flagship on this station, is to be refitted at Chatham. The Naval and Military Record to hand yesterday morning says:

"The Admiralty have sanctioned the expenditure of an additional £2,800 for refitting the cruiser Imperieuse, which has been undergoing repairs and alterations at Chatham for the past twelve months. She is being supplied with a new and improved armament of quick-firing guns."

The service paper has the following from a correspondent on board the sloop-of-war Condor, which is bound to this station. His letter, which is dated from Madeira on November 20, says:

"After a somewhat stormy passage, we arrived here this morning, having sailed from Portsmouth on the 13th instant. On clearing the Isle of Wight we found a fresh breeze blowing from northwest, with a hippy sea, and the next day the ship pitched and rolled so much that nearly everyone fore and aft felt a bit 'piano.'

"The decks wanted caulking before leaving Chatham, but as this was not done, they leaked over mess-deck and cabins to such an extent that there was hardly a place below where water could not be seen dripping about. Several of the cabins were washed out with water which leaked through the hammock nettings. On the evening of the 15th, when getting out of the bay, we were nearly run down by a passenger steamer, which, after overtaking us, proceeded to cut across our bows before she had sufficiently headed us. However, as we altered course and stopped the engines, the two ships did not get too close.

"Among the ship's fittings it may be mentioned that the wardroom fiddles were so strangely fitted that when on the table they had a somewhat similar appearance to a suit of clothes hung on a very fat short man, being worn by a tall thin man, whereby there was not sufficient at the 'ends," and a considerable overhanging amidships—in point of fact, they were about three inches too short. It was thought the suggestion is made that Western ladies will find in it a complete solution of the problem of a fitting bicycle dress for the sex.

Very grave anxiety is felt for the fate of the crew of the Tokio commercial school, which, with 91 students on board, left Muroran, in the Hokkoido, on the 13th, for Shimidzu, where she was due on the 20th. On the 17th a fierce typhoon, the same which recently ravaged Hongkong, was raging on the coast, and it is feared that the vessel has foundered with all on board. As, however, she was a sailing vessel, with only auxiliary steam power, it is possible that she may have been driven far out to sea.

The Standard Oil Company is attracting much attention by the recent increase of its capital in a local sense, the prise being the amount of ten million, the Echigo oil region being the new field of its enterprise.

Thanksgiving day was very generally observed by American residents yesterday, attention to its history being called by a general circular issued by Col. Buck, the United States minister, whose careful and kindly attention to all which concerns American citizens has won for him universal regard and esteem. Marquis Ito's illness still continues, though with marked improvement, and it is hoped that in a very short time he will be able to assume the active duties of the premiership.

WHEN IT HURTS TO COUGH.

The cough that hurts, the cough that gets tight in the chest, is daily getting deeper and deeper into the bronchial tubes and is making directly for the lungs, to become pneumonia, inflammation of the lungs, or consumption. Such coughs yield to no other treatment than that which Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine, which loosens the tightness and cures cough and cold together. 25 cent a bottle. Family size 60 cents. Sold everywhere.

UNITED STATES MARINE.

Its Small Size in Comparison With the Country's Trade.

From Literary Digest.

The United States newspapers are fond of printing glowing descriptions of our unprecedented commerce, descriptions bristling with figures to show that the United States is elbowing the other nations out of the world's markets. In contrast with these evidences of commercial and industrial prosperity, the size of our merchant marine (as disclosed by the report of Eugene Tyler Chamberlain, United States commissioner of navigation, just issued) cuts a rather sorry figure. Although the past fiscal year has been the most prosperous known to American shipping for a considerable time, our total tonnage is still 374,974 tons less than in 1861. In that year our tonnage was 5,539,813 tons, and was larger than Great Britain's and nearly equalled the British Empire's. British shipping now amounts to 14,261,000 gross tons—ours amounts to 5,164,839. When the part of our tonnage that is used in the foreign trade is examined separately, a still more surprising fact appears. Our tonnage in the foreign trade last year was only 816,795 tons, only nine per cent. of our exports and imports. A century ago, in fact, American shipping registered for foreign trade was 669,921 tons, while this tonnage now in the thirteen original states amounts to 482,907 tons. For serious competition with foreign nations in the ocean-carrying trade, we are practically restricted to ninetyseven registered steamships of over a thousand tons, aggregating 260,325 tons. There are single foreign steamship corporations that own greater tonnage. As regards American shipbuilding, the commissioner shows that our entire construction of ships for foreign trade in the last ten years is not much more than half of Great Britain's output of 1,340,000 tons during the single year 1899. The main reason for this state of affairs, he says, is that the cost of shipbuilding in England is much less than here, and wages on the British ships are twenty-five per cent lower than on the American. A freight steamship carrying 5,000 tons cargo now costs $275,000 in the United States, compared with $214,000 in Great Britain.

What is to be done about it? The commissioner of navigation favors the shipping subsidy measure that will be considered by the coming session of congress, a measure that would pay a bonus out of the federal treasury to ships of creditable size and speed, built in American shipyards, and would thus, it is claimed, encourage American shipbuilding. This measure, however, which is known as the Hanna-Payne shipping subsidy bill, is bitterly opposed by an overwhelming majority of the press. Republican as well as Democrat, on the ground that it would enrich one industry at the expense of the rest, without giving any adequate return, and on the ground that it is so framed that most of the subsidy would go to a few lines that are already making a good profit, and the rest, which really need encouragement, would get nothing at all. The New York Journal of Commerce, for example, says "Our fundamental objection to the subsidy bill is that it proposes to defray the loss, real or alleged, of operating American vessels out of the proceeds of taxation, without guaranteeing the country that it will have any greater or better shipping facilities than it now has, but that American will be substituted for foreign vessels at a cost of nine million dollars per annum." On the other side, the New York Sun says: "No nation with a large extent of sea coast and dependent as a large part of its commerce upon transportation on the seas has complete independence until it carries or is able to carry its own goods. The United States have complete political independence, but they have not yet achieved complete commercial independence. Any measure that will hasten that desirable day of freedom should be welcomed. The matter of cost, that is, the mere question of dollars and cents, involved in the bill to secure this freedom, should be the last element to be considered."

B. C. STEAM DYE WORKS.
141 Yates Street, Victoria.
Ladies' and gents' garments and household furnishings cleaned, dyed or pressed equal to new. se10-dy&w

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that in one month from this date I intend applying to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, Victoria, B. C., to purchase 320 acres of land at the mouth of Bear Creek, west side of Chilkat River, District of Cassiar, 80 chains long by 40 chains wide, initial post is on an island in the Chilkat River.

Dated this 16th day of October, 1900, at Bear Creek, B. C.

JOHN IRVING,
Locator.

NOTICE. David McNicholl and Thomas Tait, of Montreal, and Harry Abbott and Geo. McL. Brown, of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, inter alia, will apply to the Parliament of Canada at its next session for an Act incorporating a company under the name of the Kootenay & Arrowhead Railway Company, with power to construct or acquire and to operate a railway from a point at or near Arrowhead on Arrow Lake, Kootenay District, British Columbia, thence by the most direct and feasible route via Trout Lake or Duncan River to some point at or near the north end of Kootenay Lake in said district and branch lines, with power to own and operate telegraph and telephone lines, roadways and tramways, warehouses, steam and other vessels, ferries, mines, smelters, timber lands, wharves, docks, docks, warehouses, water rights, dams, flumes, water power, to generate and transmit and deal in electricity and electric power, together with such powers as to maintaining and operating or disposing of its railway and works and such other powers and privileges as the newly formed Railway Companies incorporated by the Parliament of Canada, and for other purposes.

J. E. McMULLEN,
Solicitor for Applicants.

WO SANG,
85 Store Street. Victoria, B.C.
MERCHANT TAILOR.
NEW GOODS JUST RECEIVED..
Fit Guaranteed.

The H. B. A. Vogel Commercial College
P. O. Box 347, Vancouver, B. C.
We teach through office methods entirely and use no text books or "system" for bookkeeping. We teach and place our students into positions in six months. Shorthand and typewriting. Send for illustrated prospectus.

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTICE RESPECTING THE REBATE ON EXPORTED TIMBER.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Order-in-Council of the 23rd August, 1900, which provides for the discontinuance, from the 1st day of July, 1900, of the rebate on all timber exported beyond the limits of the Province, has been amended so as to provide that the said rebate shall be allowed to and be discontinued from the 31st of December, 1900, on all timber shipped to FOREIGN ports without the Dominion.

J. D. PRENTICE,
Provincial Secretary.
Provincial Secretary's Office.
3rd December, 1900.

NOTICE TO ARCHITECTS.

The Honorable the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works hereby invites the Architects of British Columbia to submit, on or before Saturday, the 22nd day of December next ensuing, (competitive) drawings, specifications and estimates of cost, for the construction of a Government House at Victoria, B. C.

Particulars of competition and further information can be obtained from the undersigned.

W. S. GORE,
Deputy Commissioner of Lands & Works.
Lands and Works Department.
Victoria, B. C., Oct. 31, 1900.

"Have you seen to it that the patient is not subjected to any severe nervous shock?" asked the physician.

"I have," answered the nurse. "I go through every newspaper he reads and cut out the despatches dated from Paterson, N. J."—Washington Star.

"But," they said to the illustrious nobleman, "how is it that you are so well educated, if you spent every day of your life on the battlefield?"

"Easy enough," he answered; "I went to knight school."—Baltimore American.

SUICIDE---ITS

(Goldwin Smith, in N

Statistics just published show that suicide is on the increase. It might be hastily inferred that the world is becoming less happy. But the inference would be unfounded. Rather it might be said that the means of enjoyment having been greatly increased and the standard of it generally raised, deprivation is more keenly felt and more productive of despair. The leading course, however, probably is sensibility intensified by civilization. It seems to be an admitted fact that the rate of suicide increases with national education; not that national education produces suicide, but it produces sensibility. Some investigators tell us that suicide is common also among savages. If it is, the cause may be assumed to be very different from that which operates among the civilized. The savage yields without reflection to any impulse, like the horse in the New Forest, which, maddened by the sting of the forest fly, dashes out its life against a tree.

It does not appear from the classification that any particular calling is especially suicidal unless it be that of the soldier. It would have been easy to understand why a British or Prussian soldier of former days, subjected to an iron discipline, deprived of every comfort in life and mercilessly flogged or caned, should be ready to bolt through the only door of escape, especially if he had been like many of Frederick's soldiers, crimped, or, like many of those in the British army, decoyed when he was drunk by a recruiting sergeant into a service which in those days was for life. But under the present military system it is difficult to see why soldiers should be given to suicide.

Of the races one is rather surprised at first to be told the Teutonic, in which you would have expected most fortitude, are more suicidal than the Celtic, in which you would have expected less. The gloom of the northern climate may be partly the cause, but it probably may be said also that the deeper character is the more melancholic. The Roman Catholic Celt in Ireland will hear with complacency that the rate of suicide among the Saxon Presbyterians of Ulster is double that among the Irish of his own race and religion.

One is rather surprised also to learn that May, June and July are the suicidal months. It might have been supposed rather that they were the season of cheerfulness and hope. The explanation given is that with the revival of vitality all of the feelings and impressions become more lively, those which lead to suicide among the rest. This is the season when a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love and when perhaps disappointments in love are common.

Marriage, it appears, is an antidote to suicide which on the other hand prevails among the divorced. The fact is that nine marriages out of ten are happy; not so happy perhaps as, in spite of all disillusionment, evenness of temper and determination to make the best of the union would render them, yet happy than a lonely life. The tendency to domestic strife and divorce would naturally prevail most among the rich and idle, who have no daily need of each other's help and are tempted to fill the vacancy in their lives with irregular love.

That suicide would be far less common among women than among men statistics were hardly needed to assure us. Women are more patient and less resolute than men. They are also less exposed to the stress of life. Among Spanish women, however, it seems there is a special prevalence of suicide, of which the intensity of Spanish passion is no doubt the cause.

It is rather disappointing to be told that neither drunkenness nor sexual immorality is among the principal direct causes of suicide. The share of their suicidal effect seems to be felt more by the children of the sinners than by the sinners.

If we could scrutinize the causes of suicide we should probably find that the variety was infinite. Nameless are the things which may make a man, especially if his liver is out of order, fancy that life is not worth living. Mere satiety, it appears, may sometimes have a fatal effect. The mysterious death of the wicked Lord Lyttelton, supernaturally predicted, seems to have been merely a case of suicide committed by a satyr of voluptuary and masked by a story which he told his friends of an apparition warning him that he was about to die. Among the writer's notice a case has occurred of suicide committed by a wealthy sybarite without assignable cause unless it were weariness of life, brought to a crisis perhaps by disorder of the liver owing to extreme sultriness of the weather. On the other hand the writer has known a case where the character of the man was excellent and the only assignable motive was the prospect of having an office thrust upon him and being thus compelled to play a public part. The temperament, perhaps, was something like that of Cowper, though there was not, as in the case of Cowper, insane delusion.

We can hardly reckon among suicide cases of euthanasia, as it is called, that is of the mere shortening of the pains of death. There seems to be no good reason why, when death is certain, when moral and intellectual life is practically extinct and nothing is left but the capacity of pain, a man should undergo lingering tortures instead of being allowed to the relief of all about him as well as his own to depart in peace. If Providence has sent the pain, Providence has also sent the remedy. If it is urged that you ought to wait till God calls you, you may reply that a mortal disease is the call of God. The danger of license, however, is obvious, at least without strict medical regulation, which it would be very difficult to provide. It seems hard that science should be employed, as so often it must be, in keeping a man stretched on the rack, and it is some times an unhappy privilege of wealth to have its tortures thus skilfully prolonged when poverty would be allowed to die. Yet it is, no doubt, the duty of the physician to fight death to the last. As a matter of fact, the merciful use of anodynes, which no law of the profession forbids, is almost equivalent to euthanasia. Sir Thomas Moore, a most good man, makes euthanasia lawful in his Utopia.

Of self-destruction from insanity or lesion of the brain it is needless to speak. This is to all intents and purposes natural death.

Some experts maintain that all cases of suicide are cases of insanity; but if you ask them what they mean by insanity, they will say tendency to suicide, just as in the case of murder, when they are called in support of a defence on the ground of insanity the only account of insanity which they can give is tendency to murder.

Insomnia appears to be on the increase, whatever may be the cause, whether anything in our diet or in the general restlessness of an age, in which nobody except the old Turk seems to kee