

whereby every member of the profession shall, when a vacancy occurs, have an equal start, and a chance for a fair, open and manly contest. It is not so at present, or we would not hear the mutterings which are so frequent as to be almost universal, and which have already found utterance in the public press. Perhaps we should be more specific in stating what it is, so many of the profession complain of. It is simply this: That the Medical Staff of the Hospital, or at all events a portion of them, act as if the Institution was their own special property, and upon them devolved the duty of electing their colleagues. It is true the elective power is in the hands of the Governors, but a portion of the Staff act as if they were a Committee of Nomination, and, by keeping the knowledge of a vacancy occurring from getting abroad, endeavor thus to favor the candidate who in their opinion should fill the vacancy. This gentleman at once starts upon the canvass, as do also some of the Staff, but, by keeping within the circle upon which they bring the most influence, the news does not spread for some time. When it does get out, and the other candidates enter the field, it is at an enormous disadvantage, for they find that, what with thoughtlessness and the personal pressure brought to bear upon them, a large number of the Governors, possibly sufficient to carry the election, have pledged themselves to the first candidate who had called upon them. Now all this is radically wrong—nay it is more, it is positively outrageous. The member of the Staff who intends to resign should communicate his intention to some officer of the Hospital, who should at once, by advertisement, announce the vacancy, and ask for applications. Moreover, the Staff from motives of delicacy, not to speak of the general relations which they ought to bear to all their brother practitioners, should abstain from all participation in the canvass. As to the duty of the Governors, we think that a constituency so intelligent should not pledge themselves to the first candidate who may call upon them. On the contrary we hold the opinion that, until ample time has elapsed to enable all the candidates to place their claims before them, or even until all who have sent in applications have called upon them, they should hold themselves unpledged, and then weighing all the facts, come to an in-

telligent decision as to their vote. What are the facts which should influence them in coming to this decision? We will try and point out some of them, and endeavor to show that in all similar institutions throughout the world a very different policy is carried out to that which prevails among the Governors of the Montreal General Hospital. Here a large number of the Governors have become educated, through the influence of a few, to look upon the Hospital appointment as being the perquisite of the young physician, who, having influential friends to back him, is elected to a field golden with opportunities, in which he is expected to receive that practical information which will make him *entirely* worthy of public confidence. In other words, the young man occupies the Hospital chariot, and he rides into practice upon Hospital patients. It is not so elsewhere. When a vacancy occurs in most, if not all the large Hospitals of the Mother-land and the United States, the selection is made from among those who, by force of industry, perseverance, and successful practice among the public, have made for themselves a professional reputation. This class of men, on election to an Hospital, carry to it the reputation which they have won, and they at once give to its patients the benefit which that experience is capable of exerting. It is surely worth something to be able to guarantee poor patients, who may be *compelled* to accept Hospital treatment, that the physician who attends them has already proved his success upon those who *willingly* sought his service. To the students who may follow him around the ward, such a man is invaluable. He may not sit up half the night, that on the morrow he may recite a treatise upon one or two of the prominent cases under his care, but, day by day, he will be able to give out of the storehouse of his experience valuable remarks, valuable because of their practical character. The Hospital is not the place to study the theory of disease; there all should be of a practical character. Is the young man just entering on his professional career the one to give such information? We think not; rather will it be got from him who, by day and by night, has worked out his destiny, and has at last compelled the public to admit that he is worthy of the best confidence they can bestow upon him.