

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE DEATH RETURNS.

The current number of the Canada Journal contains a table showing the number of deaths registered at the administrative places in Ontario for the last three months of the present year.

Table with columns for Place, Registered Deaths, and Population. Rows include Toronto, Hamilton, Brantford, etc.

Causes of death are enumerated as follows:—Diphtheria, 30; dysentery, 5; scarlet fever, 19; typhoid fever, 19; scarlet fever, 19; other fevers, 17; consumption, 17; cholera, 57; pneumonia, 28; other lung diseases, 74; old age, 59; total 187. Commenting on the returns the Journal of Health makes the following analytical remarks:—"The above table shows that the registered death rate for the 21 large cities and towns in Ontario, with an aggregate population of 28,689, for the first quarter of the present year was only 13 per 1,000 living, per annum. This doubtless is lower than the real death rate, and some of the places require the presence of the Inspector. Brantford and St. Catharines give the fullest returns and show the highest mortality, namely, 20 per 1,000 living, per annum. In Brantford, 15 of the 62 deaths registered in that quarter were from scarlet fever. With a system of registration of contagious diseases and proper isolation, this would not occur. When will this come into operation in Canada? There were 26 deaths from this disease in the 21 places. In St. Catharines 16 of the 41 deaths registered, about one-third, were from consumption, sufficient to demand enquiry. This certain and constant destroyer of many lives caused 10 deaths in a total of 936 (in the 21 towns), or 1 in about every six and a half. In Toronto one death in every 11 was from this disease; in Hamilton, one in 8; in London, one in 7, in Brantford, one in less than 3. There were in all 4 deaths from inflammation of the lungs, 16 of which were in Toronto, with a population considerably over one-fourth of the whole of the 21 places. From other lung diseases there were 7 deaths, 24 of which were in Toronto. From brain disease 31 deaths, 14 of which were in Toronto. From heart disease 57 deaths, with 18 of them in Toronto. From diphtheria 30 deaths, with 12 of them in Toronto. That city, therefore, shows a proportionately high mortality from these last five named diseases—lung disease, heart and brain disease, and diphtheria. Thus, while in the whole of the 21 towns there was one death from lung disease in every 2,500 of the population in Toronto there was one death in every 1,900 of the population. In Brantford and Belleville, however, the mortality from these diseases was much higher than in Toronto; or about one in 1,100 of population. From brain disease there was one death in about 9,000 of population, in all the towns collectively; while in Toronto there was one in 5,500. In two of the other towns the proportion was quite as great as in that city. Only 19 deaths in all were from typhoid fever, and only 4 of these were in Toronto; while there were no deaths in Toronto from scarlet fever." It is highly desirable that the Provincial Registration Act should be carried out, and that by inflicting the penalties imposed upon those interested should have impressed upon them the necessity of a prompt compliance with the letter of the law.—Editor.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

[From the Canada Gazette.] His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to make the following appointments, viz:— OTTAWA, 3rd May, 1881. John Alexander Boyd, of the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, one of Her Majesty's Counsel learned in the law, to be Chancellor of the Province of Ontario, vice the Hon John Godfrey Sprague, promoted to be Chief Justice of Ontario. 5th May, 1881 His Honour James B. Sinclair, Judge of the County Court of the County of Wentworth, and His Honour John J. Ringwall, Judge of the County Court of the County of Bruce, to be respectively Surrogate Judges of the Maritime Court of Ontario, pursuant to the Maritime Jurisdiction Act, 1877.

ACTIVE MILITIA.

Regulations for the Annual Drill of 1881-82, Dominion of Canada. 1. In order that the expenditure for drill and training of the Active Militia of Canada for the fiscal year of 1881-82, may be kept within the appropriation made by Parliament, the strength of corps to be drilled and paid for that year has been limited, under, viz:— Corps of Infantry and Garrison Artillery (excepting the Battery at Victoria, B.C.) are not to exceed 45 non-commissioned officers and men, including staff sergeants and buglers. Field Batteries—1 Captain, 2 1st Lieutenants, 1 Surgeon, 1 Veterinary Surgeon, 1 Sergeant-Major, 1 Quartermaster Sergeant, 4 Sergeants, 1 Corporal, 4 Bombardiers, 1 Trumpeter, 1 Farrier, 50 gunners and drivers and 20 horses, including the officers' and non-commissioned officers' horses. CITY CORPS 2. All city corps (excepting field batteries of artillery, and such companies as belong to rural battalions of infantry) may be permitted to perform twelve days of annual drill at their local headquarters at such times, prior to 1st December, 1881, as may be most convenient. The No. 2 Field Battery of the 1st Provisional Brigade (Ontario) and the Halifax Field Battery may be permitted to drill at their local headquarters as city corps. The officers of city corps shall be paid at the rate of \$1; the non-commissioned officers and men, 50c.; and for horses of mounted officers or of corps, 75c. each, for each day a drill consisting of three hours. Any city company which forms part of a rural battalion, can only be permitted to drill for pay, in case it is selected for, and performs such drill in camp with the battalion to which it belongs. RURAL CORPS. 3. The maximum number of officers, non-commissioned officers and men of rural corps, including city field batteries (other than the two specially exempted), to receive pay for drill in each district, will be—

Table with columns: Military District Number, Amount. Rows include districts 1 through 12.

Selections to be made from rural corps of the different arms in each district, in proportion as their strength bears towards each other. Those not drawn for drill last year to be first taken. The corps in each of the districts, numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, representing the above totals (excluding isolated companies of infantry and engineers and garrison batteries of artillery), are to be concentrated for twelve days drill in a camp of exercise, including the day going to and the day returning from camp.

STATEMENT of the revenue and expenditure on account of the consolidated fund of the Dominion of Canada, as by returns furnished to the Finance Department to the night of the 30th April last:—

Table with columns: Revenue, Expenditure, Amount. Rows include Customs, Excise, Post office, Public works, etc.

J. M. COURTNEY, Deputy Minister of Finance. Finance Department, Ottawa, 2nd May, 1881.

THE QUEEN AND LORD BEACONSFIELD.

The most touching incident connected with the death and burial of the late Lord Beaconsfield was the arrival at Highbury of a wreath of flowers to be placed on the coffin. There were wreaths innumerable, each of which testified to the esteem in which the deceased statesman was held. Working-men and working women in all parts of the country had clubbed together to provide a parting benison of flowers. Clubs, political and social, have sent their floral offerings. Princes and peasants, corporations and individuals, men of the same political principles and men alien from him in politics and religion, sent wreaths with appropriate inscriptions. The Prince of Wales laid on the coffin his garland, on which had been inscribed "A tribute of friendship and affection." Another member of the Royal family sent "A mark of respect from Her Majesty." A third carried with him "A mark of respect from Leopold." But the most touching offering of all that mass of flowers, described as towering high above the bier, came from Her Majesty the Queen. The garland

of our sovereign lady was of primroses, flowers that, at this time of year, are cheap and abundant as air. In the lowest slums of this great city primroses are so plentiful that the poorest are able to purchase a bouquet. A sackful may be had for a few shillings. Why, then, did the Queen select so common a flower to form the material of the last mark of respect she could ever pay to her departed minister? The inscription by her own hand explains the reason. "His favourite flowers a tribute of affection from Queen Victoria, are the words used. Could any other be so pathetic?"—London Globe.

GETTING MARRIED.

There seem to be two sorts of girls—those that ought, because specially fit, to be married, and those that never should and never will be, and yet invariably get married. The former are usually the demure, industrious, unworldly, domestic, the latter are the easy, careless, merry, impudent, frolicsome, saucy girls, of whom men become enamoured for no reason at all, and in spite of themselves. When a man falls in love and can't crawl out readily, he avails himself of marriage, and is often extricated thereby without intending it. He is no more logical in matrimony than in celibacy; the same thing that makes him a lover turns him to a husband, and he is thenceforward if he does not discover a sharp and sudden difference between the two. It is passion, not reason, and it is so thoroughly human. Men generally like one kind of women and love another kind. The one kind they are anxiously recommended to wed, and don't; the other kind they are advised not to wed, and do. Which is the better—to take a wife because you like her, or to take a wife because you love her. Hymen alone knows and he won't tell. If you do either, or neither, you may repent. There is no absolute safety in wedlock or out of it. No man's experience is good for another man, and our own experience in erotic affairs is rarely valuable; for every time a man falls in love—and he has got already in this way—the accident varies, though the effect is unaltered. No man can say what sort of a woman will be his wife; and if he be wise he won't express any opinion on the subject. He may cherish many views or have many beliefs thereupon, but the more of these he has the less likely are they to be confirmed. He who insists in his bachelor days that his wife shall be a beauty is apt to find her plain. He who cannot endure women without intellect surrenders to one not suspected of it. The devotee of order discovers himself mated with the embodiment of confusion. The stickler for elegance sees, when the glamour or courtship has been removed, that he is joined to a dowdy. Marriage goes, to a certain extent, by contrast, if not contraries. A woman, still less than a man, gets the husband she paints to her fancy. Her conjugal ideas are commonly regulated by her age and experience. The man she desires at 16 or 17 would be a burden at 20, and her ideal at 20 might prove a bore at 25. She begins with sentimentalism and ends with soberness; vanity impels her first, but sympathy holds her last. She is frequently surprised at the offers she receives, and still more surprised at the offers she does not receive. The love that comes at first sight rarely remains, it is apt to be born of the eye, not of the temperament. The love that grows generally endures and produces fruit. Love and marriage are not related as we think they should be. Love matches often turn out ill, and matches without love turn out well. No one can tell what love is, nor can anyone guess what marriage will bring. We are all, when young, full of thoughts and theories about both, and individual experience is ever contradicting what we have learned. Marriage is as impetrable as love. Few of us are prepared for their disclosures. We may love and marry again and again; but our ideal of love and marriage is almost always wholly unlike the thing itself.

THE PHYSIQUE OF BRITISH SOLDIERS.

The decrease which has been talked about the degeneration in physique of recruits caused by short service may be considered as disposed of by the report of the Inspector-General on recruiting. It is to be observed, in the first place, that whereas long service before its abolition had failed to supply the 11,000 men required annually for the army, short service gives all that are wanted, and offers a great many more than are taken. The physical average of the recruits is regularly and steadily improving year by year. In 1871 the proportion of soldiers in the army under twenty years of age was 190 per 1,000. In 1880 it was only 100 per 1,000, or little more than half what it was before short service was introduced. The proportion of narrow-chested men—that is under thirty-five inches—has fallen by nearly one-half since 1874. Here are facts which, if not presumed, will not be disputed; and it may be hoped that in the face of them the senseless cry that the army is degenerating will not cease, it will at least be discredited by all sensible men.—Pall Mall Gazette.

CALLING.

The Montreal Star, in its Saturday edition, has some "Inquiry columns" which are more or less instructive, and sometimes amusing. One column is called "The Kiquette Department," where people who are at a loss, look for information on conduct and behaviour. The following is a specimen of the sort of questions that may be found in that paper. It is sensibly answered:— Ottawa asks—Whether ladies whose husbands fill high official stations in the Government are thereby excused from the observance of the customs of ordinary society, in the matter of returning visits. This lack of ordinary courtesy, as I have been taught to regard it, is not universal. Nevertheless, it seems to be thought by some, who ought to be well instructed on such matter, that social slight may be indulged in with impunity and that morning calls, even when twice repeated, need not be returned. Answer.—Much allowance should be made for ladies whose visiting books, if properly journalized, would probably contain hundreds of names, making the duty of exchanging card for card or visit for visit a physical impossibility. This however is not the question put by Ottawa. There can be no doubt that a lady's or a gentleman's visit ought to be recognized. It does not follow that the recognition need be repeated where no civilities are interchanged, but that it should be made there in no manner of doubt. Many excuses may be made for women whose social duties, consequent on their husband's official positions, are varied and exacting. They have not the time to gratify their own wishes in this respect, and can only afford to keep up a regular calling acquaintance with those whom they may desire to know or those whose hospitality they have been gratified to partake. The practice of continually exchanging cards is troublesome and ought not to be looked for. The advantage of exchanging one visit at least to people who occasionally meet at social gatherings is that a way is made for exchanging a few words of conversation when, in the absence of such recognition of a call, the person slighted is obliged either to take refuge in silence, or to accept notice from one who has failed to be courteous. Nor should people in official position forget that excuses are transparently that are easily seen through. It may as well be borne in mind that their Excellencies the Governor General and his wife are the only persons to whom exceptions may be, and are properly claimed.

HOW KENTUCKY HORSES ARE TRAINED.

One after another beautiful saddle horses were ridden out over the track, moving along at a gentle, easy gait, flying at a rapid canter, racking, or breaking into a trot, as the rider willed. All these horses, I believe, were thoroughly bred, and their prices ranged from \$300 to \$1,000. No well worn they gaited and trained that the rider had but to touch the mane in given place or make a certain signal to have them take a rack, canter, trot, run, or lope. Any one can learn to manage these gait in a very short time, as I found from experience. But the method by which these horses are so perfectly trained I could not learn. Either the trainers do not know exactly how to impart the information, or they are determined to keep it to themselves. Some answered my questions by saying:—"It is easy enough. You can make a horse do anything you want to. Only let him know what you want him to do. You had better wear spurs when riding, give him his head freely, and if he takes one gait when you spur him on the right side, just spur him again there when you want the same gait." Here, a horse passed on a rack, and as the rider touched him with the tip of his finger on the head, he struck out on a square trot. "Now," said I, "how was that horse trained so as to strike a trot by that signal?" "Why," answered the Kentuckian, "our saddle horses all learn that from the time they are colts." I asked Mr. Lindonberger, "What is the secret of the superiority of Kentucky horses?" "There is a combination of causes," he answered. "The great majority of the horses here have some good blood in them, and you will find it crossed somewhere back in their pedigree. The best strains of running and trotting blood have been taken from here to other states, and they there fail to produce the desired results. There is something in the blue grass, the water, the atmosphere, and the general climatic influence, and then, as Mr. Tracey told you this morning, there is everything in judicious breeding and training. We force our horses to a gait when they are 1 year old, and at 3 years old they are pretty well developed. The northern men, however, always improve them." "How long have Kentucky horses held their high place?" I queried. "No one hereabout can tell. I know men who have lived here 85 years, and they state that from their earliest childhood they have heard of the superiority of our horses. Their fathers before them had the same story to tell. The fact is, that somewhere in the past there was brought into this state a pure strain of thorough blood, derived from best stock of the mother world, and it has transmitted its qualities from sire to son to the present time. It is a lamentable fact that we have not the exact data upon which to base a history of the Kentucky horse." The fastest horses in the world have been bred and trained in this neighborhood. Maud S, record 2:10; Wedgewood, 2:19; Woodford Membrino, 2:24; Trinet, 2:19; Dick Moore, 2:22; John Morgan, 2:24; Indianapolis, 2:21; Voltaire, 2:21, are but a few of the racers that have been sent out of Kentucky, while the number of fine carriage

saddles and trotting horses that have been sold here and are now scattered throughout our large cities could no more be calculated than one could count the trees of the forest.

CHEATING AT CARDS.

The following has been gleaned from an article on the above subject, published a few days ago in the New York Sun in all large cities, but more particularly New York and Chicago, there exist establishments for the manufacture of gambling implements. Although the law condemns these implements when men are caught in the act of using them, there is no law against their manufacture and sale. When the police break up a gambling den they take away all the tools, but within 24 hours everything can be replaced, and the game goes on as before. It is acknowledged that the game in which there is most cheating is "draw poker," a game which is played everywhere. There are many ways of cheating at poker. One is by marked cards. One way of marking cards is on the back at the time of their manufacture, and there are as many styles adopted as there are different colours. To an ordinary observer the backs are of an intricate and symmetrical pattern, but the marks can easily be detected by experts. It only requires seven or ten marks to a pack. Four marks will expose the four suits and thirteen marks will expose the cards in each suit. Although the marks are so plain that they can be read as far as one can see a card, they are so covered up in the scroll work and patterns that they cannot be noticed unless pointed out. Sometimes the marks are in the folds of a flag; sometimes in the turn of an ornamental scroll. All the high cards are denoted by the different positions of a little scoup. The low cards are marked with various positions of a little device that looks like the butt of a pistol. These cards are sold at about \$1.50 a pack. Anyone thoroughly acquainted with this trickery can tell every man's hand as it is dealt before he knows it himself. If he gets a low hand he can be bluff of his stake at the start. If he gets a high hand you know when to keep out; but in the event of some one furnishing cards that are not marked, there are several other expedients resorted to, amongst which is a little tool called pokering. It is apparently an ordinary diamond ring, but it is provided with a sharp steel point, by which means every good card is marked with a little hole in the corner. There are various other little instruments employed; for instance, the spy, a little mirror which is fastened to the knee. It is convex and catches the reflection of the cards at various angles. Another complicated machine is the vest-holder. The plan of it is to rig a contrivance inside the vest that will take in a number of cards according to the desire of the operator and convey them out of sight. Then, when a card is wanted out of this receptacle, the string which is attached to the machine is tightly drawn, and the holder carries to the hand the cards required. Some gamblers have a dexterous and skillful way of concealing cards down the back of the neck; others dispose of surplus cards by throwing them to a distant part of the room. Cheating is also extensively carried out with roulettes, or wheels of fortune, loaded dice, and in the game of whist.

The Hamilton employers have given no answer as yet to the piece working shoemakers, who threaten to strike if their demand of 15 per cent. advance is not granted by Monday.

Much surprise and regret was expressed at Kingston last week on intelligence being received of the sudden death, in New York, of Col. G. W. Flower, of Watertown. He was in Kingston two weeks ago in good health. Deceased was vice-president of the Kingston and Pembroke Railway, and in tribute to his memory the engines and cars have been draped in mourning.

The Queen sent to Lord Beaconsfield during his last illness every kind of delicacy that might tempt an invalid to eat, were it but the least morsel. Many other ladies did the same, and the last solid food eaten with difficulty by the ex-premier was part of a chicken outlet which had been prepared by careful hands. When nourishment of this kind could be no longer swallowed, egg beaten up in brandy was given; but after one or two trials this was also given up. At the earlier period of his illness Lord Beaconsfield desired to drink a little port, and spoke of some rare old wine he had drunk at Sir Philip Ross's. With all haste it was fetched, but when it came the desire had passed away.

Sir Alexander Gordon having said in Parliament that since the Aberdeenshire militia exchanged their trousers for kilts the regiment could scarcely get a recruit. Col. Gordon Alexander writes: "I can vouch that from the first day the regiment appeared on parade in the kilt, in 1876, the recruiting annually improved in such an extraordinary manner that I left the regiment some 160 men over its establishment in November, 1879, while I had found it about 450 men under in October, 1875, when they wore trousers. Last year the establishment was raised from 800 to 1,000 men, and it is now proposed to proceed with the recruiting for a second battalion. During the whole former history of the corps while the men wore trousers, it had never reached the regulation establishment of the day."