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THE PRIVATE WARDS QUESTION.

At a recent meeting of the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society, a resolution was introduced by one of the members affirming the principle that the privilege of using the Montreal General Hospital private wards should not be restricted as at present to the attending staff of the hospital but should be granted to all physicians in good standing in the city. There appears to be an extraordinary misconception on the part of the mover of this resolution and his backers as to the real position of the medical profession in regard to public hospitals and their management. Let us consider this question in the light of plain facts and common sense.

The public hospitals are, so far as we know, legally chartered institutions, having each its board of governors and of management, who are bound by the most sacred obligations of public morality, to expend the revenues of the hospital, no matter how obtained, in a manner most conducive to the attainment of the objects for which the institution was founded. The board of governors elect from time to time their board of management, and they also elect or appoint the attending medical staff from among such applicants as seem to them best suited for the position. Their right to do this is beyond question. These