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CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL.	
The Late Kaiser.....	2
The Militia Service.....	2
Civic Reforms.....	1
Notes.....	1
CONTAINED.	
Common Vulgarisms.....	6
FRASER.	
"Franc Tisseur".....	6
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles.....	3
News of the Week.....	4, 5
Industrial Notes.....	7
Parliamentary Review.....	7, 8
Commercial.....	8, 9
Market Quotations.....	9
Serial—Saddle and Sabro.....	10, 11
Mining.....	12, 13
Home and Farm.....	14
Cheas.....	16
Draughts—Checkers.....	16

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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Articles, and for such only; but the editor is not to be understood as endorsing the sentiments expressed in the articles contributed to this journal. Our readers are capable of approving or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper, and after exercising due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Experimental (medical) science, is giving itself over to the most rampant extravagances. M. Pasteur's rash methods and conclusions are rapidly incurring the distrust and disfavor they deserve. Another lively French man, M. Verneuil, is preaching that "lock jaw comes to man almost entirely from horses." It is difficult to imagine a more outrageous proposition, "tetanus" being well known to ensue upon physical injuries having no connection with the horse or any other animal. M. Verneuil propounds the ridiculous theory that "the disease is at once virulent and contagious." Much more absurdity follows.

The minority report of the medical staff of the Victoria General Hospital was signed by Drs. Oliver, Cowie, McKay, and Rigby; the name of Dr. Cowie having been inadvertently omitted in our editorial in the last issue of THE CRITIC. The minority favor a compromise measure, placing the hospital in charge of two physicians and surgeons instead of one, as recommended by the majority. They reasonably maintain that one physician and surgeon cannot do justice to the large number of patients and attend to their private practices at the same time. The combined duties are too heavy for any one physician and surgeon, and the work that would be slighted is, pretty certain to be the hospital and not the private practice.

A trustworthy correspondent in the N. W. speaks of reports that we are to have an Indian outbreak next month. There is, it seems, no doubt of a wide-spread dissatisfaction, but our correspondent does not hear of any grave faults by agents or others. The grievance appears to consist in the insufficiency of the Government allowances in certain cases, with the result that the Indians become weak and cannot work towards spring. Failure by a contractor to deliver supplies at Edmonton is one shortcoming which should have been guarded against. It is also stated that the N. W. M. P. is in some districts badly prepared for contingencies. At one station they are said to be 20 short of their proper strength, that some of the arms are unserviceable, and that they are short of horses. It is further said that the whole Police force is about 200 under its establishment. Mr. Parley, M. P. on the other hand, on being interrogated on the subject, is said to have expressed confidence that nothing dangerous is to be apprehended. We trust it may be so.

Having found that the Religious Intelligence with which we are furnished is not of sufficient moment to justify our retention of a separate column for it, we have decided to incorporate such as reaches us in the columns of General News.

A contemporary, infallibly posted on social topics, kindly instructs us as to when we may use our fingers in eating at table in "polite society." We only demur to cheese, which we venture to think better eaten as of old, at the tip of the knife. We should be glad, however, to have our ignorance enlightened as to how and where the Army List affords information as to whether a man is married or not.

Is electricity a dutiable commodity? This question was recently submitted to the Treasury Department by the Collector of Customs of Calais, Me., that town being lit by the electric light from a current generated on the Canadian side of the line. Secretary Fairchild in reply said that as electricity is an invisible subtle agent or power, without any substance as a mercantile commodity, it is not provided for in the tariff, or liable to duty.

Lt.-Genl. Sir Jno. Ross, K.C.B., who succeeds Lord Alexander Russell in the North American command, is an officer of great service and high distinction. He was born in 1829, was Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade at Alma and Inkermann, was present at Cawnpore and the relief of Lucknow, and raised and commanded a camel corps in Sir Hugh Rose's campaign in Central India. He commanded the Perak Expedition, 1875-6, and the Brigade drawn by Lord Beaconsfield from India at the eastern crisis, and then resumed command of the Calcutta Brigade. He was second in command to Sir Fred. Roberts in Afghanistan in 1880, and received the thanks of Parliament. From 1881 he commanded the Poonah Division until promoted Lt.-General in 1886.

We call the attention of our gold mining friends to the suggestion given in our mining columns, and remind them that they are very much interested in its successful carrying out. The special reports, issued some years ago on several of the gold districts, are now nearly all out of print, the editions being exhausted. Many other districts have been worked since then; the conditions governing the cost of gold-mining have become changed, so that gold-mining is now much cheaper than formerly, and large bodies of low-grade quartz ore can now be treated profitably. A connected account of the gold districts and the gold mining industry, would give a wonderful impetus to this important branch of mining, and its publication would greatly strengthen the hands of the Nova Scotia Government Agent, who, we have suggested, should be sent to England in the interests of the Province.

As nothing is too cruel, so nothing is too foul and loathsome for the vivisectors. W. Gaucher revels in a new way of giving animals Bright's Disease. It consists in injecting into guinea pigs certain products of animal organs, so that the poor creatures die of diseased kidneys. Dr. Klein, Mr. Lingard, and others, are amusing themselves by feeding fowls upon the putrid lungs of men and animals, to induce tuberculosis, and inoculating guinea pigs, which persist in disappointing these fragrant persons by premature death from blood poisoning. And the result of all the diabolical cruelties practised is the power of producing diseases, but not a step towards their cure. The effects of their gruesome processes are found to be quite different on different animals, and are therefore scarcely ever a guide to their effects on human beings. Let no one, however, be discouraged; they will presently want human beings to practise on.

The Manchester Guardian of May 17, 1843, contains the following announcement: "The Britannia, steamer, arrived at Liverpool on Sunday morning, after a voyage of 12 1/2 days from Boston, and 10 1/2 days from Halifax." The direct boats from Liverpool to Halifax arrive on Sunday, that is 10 days from Liverpool. An acceleration in speed of 1/4 a day has taken 45 years to accomplish! We pointed out a few weeks ago that the voyage from London to Melbourne had been reduced from fifty to twenty-seven days. If fifty days can be reduced to twenty-seven in a period of twenty-five years, surely Canada is entitled to something better than a gain of 1/4 a day in forty-five years! With these facts before us, we cannot help thinking that it would be impossible to find a person so incompetent to judge of shipbuilding as Mr. Allan, of the Allan Steamship Line. Bad as his prediction: "That the life at present displayed in this industry on the Clyde must collapse before the end of the year," looks for Canada, it is only the opinion of an interested pessimist, who prefers to buy second-hand ships to building new ones.