

MEDICAL CRITICISM.

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COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

In times of *political* danger, committees of public safety have from time to time been organized by such citizens as deemed their property or their lives to be imperilled. There are not a few reflecting persons, who in view of the present rate of mortality, and the present amount of sickness and suffering which prevail in civilized communities, consider that the time has arrived to constitute similar committees in order to collect evidence on the subject of medical and surgical malpractice. One such committee is already organized in this city, and we shall probably soon be in a position to publish some of the results of its operations.

THE DANCE OF DEATH, V. DANCING A HORNPIPE.

A certain physician of this city, lately illustrated his lack of knowledge of the nature of the case he was treating, by predicting that the lady would soon be dancing a hornpipe ; that night his patient's dance was the dance of death.

THE DEATH OF THE DUKE OF KENT, AND ITS CAUSE.

“ On Thursday sennight, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent took a long walk with Captain Conroy in the environs of Sidmouth, and returned to the cottage with his boots thoroughly soaked. Captain Conroy, on reaching home, urged the Duke to change his boots and stockings ; but the suggestion was unheeded until he dressed for dinner, being attracted by the smiles of his infant Princess (Her present Majesty), with whom he sat for a considerable time in fond parental endearment. Before night, however, he felt a sensation of cold and hoarseness, when Dr. Wilson prescribed a draught composed of calomel (submuriate of mercury) and Dr. James' powders. This His Royal Highness, confiding in his strength, and from an aversion to medicine, declined to take, and remarked that he had little doubt but a night's rest, would carry off every uneasy symptom. In the morning, the symptoms of fever were increased, and though His Royal Highness lost one hundred and twenty ounces of blood from the arms and by cupping, he died on Sunday forenoon ; Dr. Maton was summoned from London, for consultation. I well remember to have heard, at his house in Spring Gardens, that able physician had accomplished man talk over with my father the particulars of the Duke's case, and to have listened to Dr. Maton's bitter regret at its fatal issue. One of his remarks was “ Perhaps all was done that could be done. Indeed that is the view which *must now be taken* ; but if I had been in attendance on him in the early stage of his disorder, I think I should have bled him more freely. His strength was so great, his constitution so unimpaired by excess, that he would have borne more depletion ; at all events, I would have risked it. The result might have been the same, but I should have hazarded extreme depletion.”—*Life of the Duke of Kent, by the Rev. Erskine Neale.*