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### THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

One good effect of the appearance of a few cases of small pox in the city after a complete exemption from it for something like a dozen years, has been the clearing up of the muddle in connection with the administration of the Civic Hospital for the treatment of contagious diseases. The absolute necessity for building space in which to care for the small pox cases has caused the management of the Montreal General Hospital to retire from the portion of the civic hospital which for over a year it has persisted in retaining upon a technicality, but nominally upon the ground that Protestant diphtheria and scarlet fever required different treatment from the Roman Catholic or non-sectarian kind. We have had the spectacle of a contagious diseases hospital for the treatment of scarlet fever and diphtheria managed by two sections of the same school of medicine, but divided upon the question of sectarian belief. One end of the building received the Catholic patients, and the other the Protestant. Something over a year ago the Health Committee of the City Council decided that such management of the Civic Hospital

was both foolish and expensive. In the interest, therefore, of economy, it was resolved to conduct the Hospital on a purely non-sectarian and civic basis, under the control of the City Medical Health Officer. Acting on this idea the authorities of the Notre Dame and General Hospitals, who had been in charge of the respective departments, were notified of the Health Committee's intentions and requested to vacate. Only the Notre Dame complied with this request, the Montreal General declining to vacate, on the ground that as they had been given in charge by the City Council no mere committee of that body had power to remove them. In the section vacated by the Notre Dame authorities, the Catholic end, the city established a purely non-sectarian hospital, visited by Protestant or Catholic clergymen at the wish of the patient, and a majority of the staff being Protestant. This state of affairs, a non-sectarian and a Protestant section, then existed for about a year, during which time, in consequence of it, the city was absolutely without a proper place in which to treat measles, which for a great deal of the time was prevalent. The advent of several cases of small pox, and the necessity for a place in which to treat it properly, the civic authorities in the meantime having to care for the developed cases in tents, evoked the necessary action by the Council, and the staff of the Montreal General retired.

The city health officer has therefore now been placed in a position to properly and economically deal with contagious diseases, and it is to be hoped that he will see to it that the citizens