

to the prevalence of small-pox in the Saskatchewan Valley, I stated to you that the Board of Health had failed to obtain the aid of Captain McDonald (who is a medical man, in the Ontario Rifles), to proceed to the Saskatchewan, in consequence of Colonel Casault feeling that he was not justified in detaching him from his duties.

Failing Captain McDonald, the Board were unable to procure the services of any private medical practitioner except upon terms that were perfectly exorbitant.

On the receipt of copy of the letter from Père Lacombe, of which I have enclosed you a copy, I sent another copy to Colonel Casault, who, in the presence of what was assuming the place of a great public calamity, felt himself no longer free to refuse assent to the wishes of the Board. He therefore consented to allow Dr. McDonald leave of absence. This gentleman is now making his preparations, and in a day or two will be off with medicines, which are already packed and ready. I enclose you copies of the instructions which I have caused to be prepared, both in French and English, for the treatment of the disease, and which are to be distributed on the way by Mr. Butler, who precedes Dr. McDonald, and by Dr. McDonald himself in places which he cannot visit personally.

I have, &c.,

(Signed), ADAMS G. ARCHIBALD.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State for the Provinces.

SMALL-POX :

Its description and appropriate treatment.

FIRST STAGE.

This stage is characterized by chills, which, after a time, are followed by feverishness—viz.: heat of skin, quick and generally full pulse—white-coated tongue, and often vomiting; and in this stage of this particular disease there is generally a severe pain in the *back*. Sometimes there is a severe pain in the head, and delirium; and, in children, convulsions are of common occurrence.

Treatment.—The treatment of this stage is simple. A purgative may first be given, of (say) two compound colocynth pills; or, six (6) grains of calomel and twenty (20) grains of jalap. A mixture, then, of spirits of nitric ether, four (4) drachms; spirits of camphor, one (1) drachm; and eight (8) ounces of cold water. Of this give a table spoonful every three or four hours. The peculiar eruption generally begins to show itself about the third day of the fever.

SECOND STAGE.

The appearance of the eruption denotes the second stage. It first appears on the face and neck; then the arms and body, and lastly on the extremities. In slight cases, only a few pustules may be found on the body or legs. When the pustules are distinct and separate from each other, it is called simple small-pox; but when they run into one another, and are very numerous, it is called confluent small-pox. These pustules grow larger and larger, and become fully formed about the seventh or eighth day.

Treatment.—During this stage, continue the mixture as a general rule, but don't purge unless it is absolutely necessary, and, even then, use something mild, as castor oil. If the patient be very weak, give some beef broth, and, if delirious, a little wine may be necessary. An opiate at bed-time is often of great benefit in this stage, if there is much restlessness during the night:—for this, give ten (10) grains of pulverized ipecacoe (Dover's powder). The pustules remain this way for often three or four days, and then begin to dry and fall off.

THIRD STAGE.

The drying up and falling off of the scales denote the third stage.