

CANADA

Medical and Surgical Journal.

MONTREAL, DECEMBER, 1876.

SMALL-POX AND VACCINATION.

A very excellent and carefully prepared paper was on a recent occasion read before the Board of Health of the city of Montreal, by His Worship the Mayor, Dr. Hingston, and some very practical suggestions were made touching the subject of vaccination, and also refuting the very dangerous and distorted statements which have been so freely and unblushingly circulated by the anti-vaccinators, of whom there are amongst us a goodly number. Interesting and practical lessons are to be learnt by a careful comparison of the statistics of the disease small-pox, one year with another, and one period of epidemic of that disease with another. These practical points are brought out with greater prominence in those countries where accurate and reliable statistics are obtainable. In the report of Dr. Seaton, the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board of London, England, which appears in Mr. Simon's Annual Report for 1874, some very instructive facts are brought out, which demand careful scrutiny. From this report it would appear that the epidemic of small-pox during the years 1871 and 1872, was a general and wide-spread epidemic of that disease. It was not confined to the continent of Europe and the British Isles, but was largely diffused, and we can call to mind the virulence and intensity, the malignancy and fatality of that epidemic in our own country. The disease attacked indiscriminately those who were supposed to be protected against it by vaccination as well as the absolutely unprotected. These facts very seriously