

ried to their graves by authority, and that assumed. Brutal murders are so bungled in the prosecution that failure of justice occurs. It is time for the public to seriously consider this subject, and refuse to be bulldozed and deprived of privileges which it is the boast of Englishmen to possess. It is not to be supposed that the Coroners of Manitoba examine into cases of death and send in a report that an inquest is not necessary—in the latter instance acting outside their powers—for no remuneration. What do they receive for this service and what would be the extra expense if the law was upheld and an inquest called. The information would be interesting to the profession and the public.

The laws of the United Kingdom are supposed to be those under which the Colonies of Great Britain are governed. But in the Province of Manitoba one of the fundamental laws of the empire, a law of vital interest to the community at large, one that under any and every case of violent death should be strictly carried out, is contemptuously set aside without precedent or authority.

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Several cases of scurvy were admitted under my care into the Winnipeg General Hospital exhibiting the usual symptoms of the disease, namely, spongy gums, constipation, ecchymoses, weakness and emaciation, with a history that they had been living chiefly on fish and salt meats, potatoes being more expensive and vegetables of any kind being very difficult to obtain. Bread and flour in different forms were however used among these people, but notwithstanding this the disease showed itself. Of course the unsanitary conditions of the environments were conducive to the progress of the disease. They were put on the usual anti-scorbutic treatment namely vegetables, fruits, etc., and in all cases the patients improved rapidly.

SCURVY.

Cases of scurvy have been of rare occurrence in Manitoba. With the exception of those that were met with about a quarter of a century ago during the building of the C. P. R. between Winnipeg and the Great Lakes, the practitioner has had but few opportunities of acquiring a practical knowledge of the disease. During the last winter several cases were admitted into the Winnipeg General Hospital from the Galician settlement near Dauphin, Man.

In view of the interest aroused in these cases and the probability that other cases of the disease may be confidently expected to occur, a consideration of the several cases of scurvy would not be out of place. That an unsuitable dietary is the cause of scurvy there is no disputing, but there is considerable difficulty in deciding what particular dietetic error is responsible for the profound alteration of the nutritive functions observable in the disease.

Without entering into an exhaustive historical account of this disease let it suffice to state that its ravages among both naval and military forces were very severe. Thus in a cruise of three years' duration a man-of-war would lose sometimes more men from scurvy than from the guns of the enemy; and even in shorter voyages the drain on the crew from this cause alone was serious.

The disease constantly breaking out amongst those whose diet consisted largely of salt beef (soldiers and sailors) seemed to give a cue to the cause, and it was generally agreed that salted provisions were the cause of scurvy, this coincidence being taken as the relation of cause and effect. This theory of scurvy may be called, the theory of excess of sodium and potassium salts.

Then, after it was shown—notably by Anson in his voyage round the world—that fresh vegetables would cure scurvy, its ravages were ascribed to an absence of vegetables or of vegetable acids, either alone, or in combination with salt meats. This we may call the vegetable acid theory.

A case of scurvy on board a man-