

THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD.

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London.**F. WAYLAND CAMPBELL, M.A., M.D., L.R.C.P.,** London.**ASSISTANT EDITOR****ROLLO CAMPBELL, C.M., M.D.**

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MONTREAL, OCTOBER, 1892.**THE LESSON OF THE CHOLERA.**

The cholera scare is already a thing of the past. While the scare was here it did good work by frightening the people into demanding that the Dominion government do what it should have done long ago at the request of its scientific advisers, namely, to put the quarantine system of the country in an efficient condition. Now that full particulars of the origin and progress of the disease are at hand, we are in a position to reiterate with authority what we only ventured to surmise in our last issue. Hamburg was the great source of danger to this continent, being the great port of embarkation for the emigrant from Russia to America. The epidemic occurred in the following manner: A number of Russian Jews with cholera arrived by train, and were duly taken to the emigrant sheds on the American quay. Their motions were a few minutes later polluting the Elbe, the water of which was soon filling the tanks of the vast fleet of ships moored below this point. From the ship's tanks to the sailors' and passengers' stomachs was but a short journey, and there is no wonder that the disease broke out on board. The only wonder is that any of those on board these ships escaped at all. The explanation is to be found in the fact

that the water is generally so uninviting on board ship that few could drink it raw, but generally take it boiled in the form of tea or coffee or soup, while those who could afford it drank bottled beer. It has also been shown that the water supply of Hamburg, which is only Elbe water filtered, was quite insufficient for the number of inhabitants, so that several thousand of the poorer class living on the river front took their supply directly from the infected Elbe. Something also has been learned with regard to treatment. The only method which proved of any avail was the subcutaneous or intravenous injection of 1000 to 1500 cubic centimetres of physiological salt solution, which opposes the tendency to death caused by the solidification of the blood. After the entrance of 400 cubic centimetres, patients already pulseless and in collapse would generally revive, and most of the cases so treated recovered. The only other method that seemed to be of any service was frequent washing of the intestines with 1 to 4 drams of tannic acid to 2 or 3 pints of hot water; but whether this is administered by the mouth or by enema does not seem quite clear. It acts by closing up the open papillæ of the intestine which permit the water of the blood to escape. All other remedies, such as salol, calomel, opium, castor oil, seemed to have proven useless.

DOMINION RECIPROCITY.

At the invitation of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, there will assemble in Ottawa, on September 20th, representatives from the legal Medical Boards of the various Provinces. It has for a long time been evident that some arrangement must be come to, whereby a legally qualified medical man in our Province can with ease have the whole Dominion open to him. To come to such an arrangement is the object of this meeting. We sincerely hope that mutual concessions will be made, and the grand object achieved. Towards this end our own Province has been working for several years, and we feel certain that at the forthcoming meeting its representatives can be depended on to throw no obstacles in the way.