

MEDICAL CRITICISM.

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2ND SERIES.

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We gather from the Report of the Hospitals of Ontario for 1882, that the average stay of each patient, including infants, in the Mattawa Hospital (which enjoys the unique privilege of not having a doctor within a hundred miles of it), is fourteen days, while the average days' stay of similar patients in the hospitals of Ottawa, Toronto, and Hamilton respectively is forty-two at the Ottawa General Protestant Hospital, twenty-six at the Roman Catholic Hospital, Ottawa, and thirty-three at the hospitals of Toronto and Hamilton respectively. The Mattawa Hospital is managed entirely by Sisters of Charity; the average days' stay of its inmates is less than half the number shown by nine out of the thirteen hospitals which are aided by Provincial funds.

THE TORONTO HOSPITAL.

A woman who was received into the hospital lately, was suffering intense pain for thirty-one hours (how much longer we are unable to say) and no doctor had then been near her.

Typhoid fever is supposed to be infectious; possibly it is not so, when the sufferers are in hospital; for in the Toronto Hospital, visitors find themselves with a fever patient on one side of them, and a consumptive patient on the other.

Christmas decorations appeal to sentiment, but when they adorn an hospital, they involve an amount of hammering and confusion which lead the patients to conclude that the practice would be more honored in the breach than the observance.

CONGESTION OF THE LUNGS.

The havoc which disease, doctors, and death have wrought of late among our fellow-citizens has induced the Editor to ask a representative of the Physio-Medical School of Doctors to give him the benefit of his sentiments on the subject; to this request, he has kindly responded, and the result is subjoined:—

Pneumonia, or inflammation of the lungs, which in fatal cases, is styled by the faculty "*congestion of the lungs*," is, in fact, only "the first stage" of the disorder; there are few who die *from this derangement alone*; the treatment of the disorder still remains—what the faculty please to style a "*quæstio vexata*," i.e., a disputed question; it may be well that all of us, who are liable to be the objects of professional experiments, should have some idea of the forms which they may assume; a recent writer says of the treatment by bleeding:—

"Probably five cases out of six would recover without bleeding; the sixth might die from the lack of it; he is of opinion that mortality has increased since the adoption of the practice of bleeding; he descants on the supposed virtues of tartar emetic, passes from that to antimony, and thence to veratrum viridi; in re-