

# The Canada Lancel

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## EDITORIAL.

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### PLACARDING MEASLES.

From the daily press we learn that Dr. Struthers, Chief Medical Inspector of Public Schools for Toronto, is trying to devise some means of checking the spread of measles. He is credited with making the statement that the disease is one of the most contagious, and the after-effects may be serious, affecting the eyes and lungs, and sometimes opening the way for tuberculosis.

Dr. Struthers said: "Measles cases should be quarantined for three weeks, or at least placarded." We do not agree with this. We have said that there is grave fear of too much placarding being done. If we are not entirely wrong in our notion regarding certain diseases, we think that one cannot pass through life without contracting measles, chickenpox, mumps, and whooping-cough. This is not so with regard to diphtheria and scarlet fever. If these diseases are escaped in youth they may always be escaped. We think that to placard for measles would do more harm than good in the long run..

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### THE CARE OF DELIRIOUS PATIENTS.

From time to time one reads of accidents to delirious patients in hospitals, due to jumping out of windows, being burned, or committing suicide in the wards or on the grounds. All this is very regrettable. But how is it to be remedied?

If the windows are barred so as to prevent a patient escaping one element of danger would be removed. But we can recall several instances where many patients lost their lives in this way when a fire occurred in the building, and this means of getting the patients out was closed. Barred windows should mean fireproof buildings, and the majority of the hospitals are not fireproof, and cannot be made such. New hospitals should all be of this class.

To keep special nurses on such cases would entail a very heavy outlay on the hospitals, which have a hard struggle now to make their incomes meet their disbursements. The lot of the mixed or general hospital is, therefore, not always a happy one.