

total admissions in three hospitals (San Roque, the French hospital and the English hospital) were 18,486 males and females (undistinguished). Of these 4,362 were venereal cases, or in the aggregate of male and female cases, 15.3 per cent.

Dr. Dupont, corroborated by Dr. Fidanza, estimates the number of venereal cases submitted to hospital treatment, as only equal to one-tenth of the whole number occurring in the city; and if this estimate be correct (and certainly Drs. D. and F. should be well able to form it), there must have been no less than 112,210 cases in the 15 years, 1861 to 1877 inclusive, or an average of 7,480 annually. This figure, for a city of some 300,000 men, women and children, is certainly rather threatening, and should be very admonitory to visitors. We have lately been informed by the highest episcopal authority of the church which represents over 90 per cent. of the population of Buenos Ayres, that the confessional is the surest safeguard of public and private morality. If this be true, the duty of confession must either be very much neglected in Buenos Ayres and throughout South America, (for venereal disease abounds in every portion of it), or its moral efficiency must be very slender. This, however, is not a question for medical jurisdiction, though it is one for serious consideration.

The deaths from constitutional syphilis, in Buenos Ayres, in hospital, in the 5 years, 1869-1873, were 301, or 60 per annum. This we venture to say is a very low estimate as regards the entire infected population. Dr. Fidanza tells us that among the lowest classes only a small proportion are treated by the regular medical profession. "Innumerable," he says, "are those among us who regard the disease with indifference the most criminal, that is, in the lowest classes, and who prefer the aid of ignorant charlatans to that of regular practitioners." We can easily comprehend the consequences of this indifference.

That only a fractional proportion of the number of female cases, as compared with those of males, comes under medical treatment, no one can doubt; and that the ravages of the neglected malady must be terrible among the women, is a fact duly established, though but in a minor degree, by the following figures. Of 6,497 male cases treated in San Roque, in 10 years, only 26 resulted in death, or about 4 per 1000; but of 362 female cases in

the same period, 36 ended fatally, or nearly 100 per 1000. This shows that women enter the hospital only after the disease has become far advanced. "This," as Dr. F. justly says, "indicates that during a long time these creatures have been affected, and may during the course of the disease have transmitted it to an immense number of individuals."

Jacob Faithful said very truly that "familiarity breeds contempt." Familiarity with venereal disease has, no doubt, done effectually its work of moral and physical degradation in the metropolis of the Argentine Republic. Dr. Dupont estimates the annual number of cases of syphilis in Buenos Ayres as at least 10,000.

The like proportion for the city of Toronto would give, say, 2,500 cases. We dare not venture to say how far this calculation exceeds the actual fact, but we would fondly hope our city, whether through the efficacy of a close and conscientious attention to confessional duty, or any and all other auxiliaries of sound morality, will long stand at a very remote distance in the statistics of venereal diseases, from the most important city of all the quondam provinces of His most Christian Majesty of orthodox Spain.

THE TORONTO SCHOOL "ORGAN" AND THE ONTARIO MEDICAL COUNCIL.

As was to have been expected the Toronto School "organ" in its July issue comes out in opposition to the proposed increase of territorial representatives, "believing that the Council is already too large and unwieldy." If it is too large and unwieldy now, what must it have been when the eclectic members were yet on the board? The real cause of this opposition however is not difficult to comprehend. The territorial members at the last meeting showed more than the usual amount of independence, and refused to be led by the nose at the instance of a few manipulators. The council has therefore suddenly become "unwieldy" and its proceedings have come in for an inordinate amount of contemptuous criticism, in the style peculiar to the "organ." So long as the council was obsequious and submitted to dictation, all was right, no praise too great; but the moment that body asserts itself, it becomes "unwieldy," and the dictionary of vituperation is exhausted; every