

the other patients became too common, life was sacrificed, and the committee of management at length determined to exclude the infected. Then the clause of the vaccination act was cited and brought to their notice, which reads thus :—1. "No warrant shall hereafter issue for the payment of any sum of money granted by the Legislature to any Hospital, unless, nor until, a certificate, signed by a medical officer of such hospital, to the effect that, there is in such hospital a distinct and separate ward set apart for the exclusive accommodation of patients afflicted with Small Pox, has been filed with the clerk of the Executive Council."

It was argued that this clause virtually prevented the authorities of the Montreal General Hospital from closing their doors to Small Pox patients, inasmuch as being a corporate body and in the receipt of a public grant they could not legally refuse such cases.—This opinion we believe has been given by two of our learned counsel at the bar, and possibly may be the reading and meaning of the clause.—It would be time lost for us to try and explain the object and meaning of that clause; to ascertain its actual meaning we require to look at the custom which had prevailed in our Hospital administration prior to the passing of that act.—It is well known that before that eminently practical paper by the late Sir J. V. Simpson, on the stamping out of Small Pox saw the light, many hospitals admitted Small Pox patients into their wards—and we have seen ourselves, in several hospitals little or no isolation of these cases.—Necessarily this led to the spread of the disease and many lives were sacrificed.—The epidemic of 1860 and 1861, caused alarm, and the Legislature in order to enforce what they considered sufficient isolation; passed the clause cited.—It was not that they deemed it necessary to have a Small Pox ward attached to each Hospital—but that it must be separate and distinct.—Cannot any one see the actual meaning of this clause? If not, let them search out the debate which took place on the