

THE Canadian Journal of Medical Science.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN MEDICAL SCIENCE, CRITICISM, AND NEWS.

U. OGDEN, M.D.,
EDITOR.

R. ZIMMERMAN, M.D., L.R.C.P., London,
107 Church Street, Toronto, Corresponding Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$3 PER ANNUM.

All Communications, Letters and Exchanges must be addressed to the Corresponding Editor.

TORONTO. JULY, 1877.

Selections: Medicine.

PLAIN DIRECTIONS FOR PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DIS- EASES.

BY J. M. MACLAGAN, M.D.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS.—I. When a case of infectious disease occurs in a house, immediate notice thereof should be given to the Medical Officer of Health or to the Inspector of Nuisances, and medical advice at once procured.

The following precautions should be taken :

1. Isolate the person affected as much as possible from the other inmates of the house.

This is most readily effected by at once removing him to an upper room, if circumstances permit. The room selected should be large and airy, and the means of ventilating it, which shall be presently mentioned, at once adopted.

2. Before removing the patient, the following preparations ought to be made in the room :

All superfluous curtains, carpets, woollen articles, unnecessary clothing—in short, everything likely to retain infection should be at once removed.

3. The patient's bed ought to be so placed as to allow of a free current of air around it, but not so as to place it in a draught.

4. The room must be kept well ventilated, under the physician's direction, by means either of a fire (when required) or of an open fireplace and chimney, and of windows opening to the external air. By means of the latter, ventilation is most effectually procured, so as to avoid draughts, in the following manner :

Raise the lower sash of the window three or four inches, then procure a piece of wood made

to fit accurately into the lower opening, and place it there. By these means free outward and inward currents of air—without causing any draughts—are obtained through the vacant space between the two sashes. When a window is merely opened from the upper or lower sash, draughts are invariably caused.

5. Placing a small sheet of oil-cloth, mackintosh, or other waterproof material, beneath the upper blanket on which the patient is to rest, effectually prevents the bed from being soiled by any discharges, etc.

II. After removal of the patient to the room in which he is to remain, the outside of the door and door-posts should be completely covered by a sheet kept constantly wetted with some disinfecting fluid, such as Burnett's solution, Condy's fluid, carbolic acid, etc.

2. The room must be kept scrupulously clean. Before being swept, which should be done daily, if possible, the floor should be sprinkled with Calvert's or Macdougall's disinfecting powders, or with a weak solution of one of the disinfecting fluids already mentioned.

3. Vessels containing disinfecting fluids should be placed in the room for the reception of all bed and body linen, towels, handkerchiefs, etc., immediately on being removed from the patient, and on no account should they be washed along with other household articles.

4. Disinfectants should also be placed in all the chamber utensils used by the patient, and after use, more disinfecting fluid should be added, and the whole contents, if possible, should be immediately buried. No chamber vessel should be allowed to remain in the room after having been used.

5. All plates, cups, glasses, etc., which have