

health. The only unpleasant symptoms she complained of during her convalescence were weakness, thirst, and a burning sensation in the stomach.

I attribute this woman's recovery entirely to the Dialysed Iron. It appears almost incredible that recovery should have taken place, considering the amount of arsenious acid swallowed. There must have been fully half a teaspoonful of the acid, which was lying in the stomach from half an hour to one hour before I saw her.

I have used this preparation (Dialysed Iron,) in very many cases, as a tonic, where other preparations of iron could not be tolerated, and always with satisfaction to myself and patients. I consider it a valuable addition to our materia medica, and trust that many of our nauseous drugs may be put into as palatable a form as this preparation of iron.

### Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET

SIR:—My attention having been called to a letter in the Canada Lancet for January, headed "G. W. R. Medical Tariff," and signed "D. D. P.," I wish to make a few comments thereupon.

In the first place, it is not accurate to state that "The G. W. R. Co. has adopted and officially promulgated a singular tariff of medical fees," etc., etc. What has been done is as follows:—It has been my earnest wish ever since I came to Canada, frequently expressed and still more frequently thought over, to establish a Provident Society for the men employed by the company, both for their own physical benefit and for the indirect advantage of inculcating habits of thrift. Obstacles, however, of various sorts prevented the idea from taking a practical shape until last autumn, when, after a great deal of consultation amongst those most interested in the matter, and with the promise of very material aid from the company, the "G. W. R. Provident Society" was finally established. The expenses of management have, on my recommendation, been assumed by the company; but the Constitution and Rules have been drawn up and a tariff of fees adopted by the managing committee, composed chiefly of delegates from the different departments, and ratified by the members of the society, and for them the company, as such, is not responsible.

That the fees are small according to the present scale, must be admitted as well as regretted. A young institution of this character is naturally not in a position to offer, at first, very high remuneration for any services; but as it may be expected that the experience of a year's working will show the advisability of making alterations in some details, so it may reasonably be expected, in view of the fact that 2,300 men have already joined the society and that the number is steadily increasing, that the committee will also be able at that time to revise the scale of fees.

Your correspondent affirms that the small fee offered by the society is supplemented only "by a free ride over the line to and from their patient." Let me say that the medical officers who so kindly responded to the application made by them by promptly accepting the office offered to them, have a free pass extending for a considerable distance beyond the limits of their professional district; and they also know that a trip pass to any point on the line is at their service whenever they choose to make application for it—advantages which, I am sure, are very considerable, and are appreciated by the profession. In addition, these gentlemen who act for the Provident society are also recognized as medical officers of the company in the same district, and will be entitled to ordinary medical or surgical fees when their services are required.

Another correspondent, in your issue for February, states very candidly that he cannot see the difference between accepting an appointment from a railway company and from a lodge or an order on the same low terms, and I am encouraged to think that the majority of medical men take the same view, and are not inclined to agree with D. L. P., as considering the fees offered by the G. W. R. Provident Society as "an insult to the profession." At least, whether the result be due to an appreciation of the other advantages accruing to them, or from expectation that the fees may be increased, or from an honest desire to assist in carrying out a good work, I am happy to state that, out of twenty-eight gentlemen to whom I, on behalf of the company, offered the appointment of District Medical Officer, two only have declined to accept it.

Yours faithfully,

F. BROUGHTON.

HAMILTON, Feb. 6th, 1878.