

It must have always been evident that the inflammation in the neighborhood of a boil is not a meaningless act of nature. But when we came to know a good deal about the habits of the staphylococci and the phagocytes, it became clear why there was so much blood around a boil. Nature was sending into the seat of war her soldiers to defend the region against the spread of the enemy on the one hand, and to drive it out on the other.

A person sprains his knee and it becomes swollen, red, hot and painful. Why? The part has been injured, and the injured tissues must be repaired. In this case the white blood corpuscles are the principal carpenters, as in the previous example they were soldiers. They go to work to fix up the injured tissues. True, the serum of the blood is very necessary. But this process means more blood in the part than is its wont in health.

In some instances for some cause, such as lack of blood in the body, low vitality, overly powerful infection, or some other reason, nature is not doing well either in its warfare against infection or in its fixing up of the injured part. The cry is more soldiers, or more repairing material.

This is the Bier treatment. But it is not new. It did not have its practical application with Professor Bier. Long before Bier took up the advocacy of this method of treatment, Dr. Hugh Owen Thomas, the noted authority on orthopedics, made use of this method of treating the chronic inflammations of joints, and as an aid in effecting the union in bones that united too slowly.

The science of this method of treatment is simple, is in accord with the plans of nature, and the credit for its advocacy should go to the good old Dr. Thomas.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

ONTARIO.

A hospital tent for tubercular patients has been secured for London. Dr. Preston, M.P.P. for North Lanark, has been again nominated for the Provincial Legislature.

Dr. E. Stanley Ryerson, of Toronto, has announced that he will devote his entire time to surgical practice.

Dr. C. H. Herbert, Hawkestone, has been appointed an associate coroner for East Simcoe.

Dr. Morley Currie retired from the political contest in Prince Edward County on account of his recent severe illness.

Dr. William Spankie, of Wolfe Island, will be a candidate for the Local Legislature for the County of Frontenac.