

CLINICAL INSTRUCTION IN INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

The action of the Medical Health Officer of Toronto, Dr. Sheard, in endeavoring to secure from the local Board of Health sanction for the students of medicine in this city to receive clinical instruction in infectious and contagious diseases is to be commended, and will be sure to be met on the part of the student-body with a considerable degree of gratification. In the past the young practitioner has been handicapped far beyond his deserts by the complete lack of facilities for instruction in these diseases; and most medical men have been graduated, carrying with them diplomas and parchments announcing them capable of handling anything of a medical or surgical character which came in their way, without having once seen or followed to a conclusion, noting and observing the various complications and sequellae of at least two dangerous and dreaded diseases, diphtheria and scarlet fever. These mostly occurring in young children, the careful and successful handling of whom has before now more than once, carried a man to success and distinction in the community, or has totally ruined his prospects in that district, surely demand all the requirements of that skill and knowledge which can be only gleaned at the bedside. To see and thus learn by practical experience how all the different phases and aspects which even these two diseases take on, to learn to meet emergencies, and to see how those emergencies are met at the bedside, will be a boon, indeed, to the future practitioners. Truly does the medical student of the present day start out with ample equipment, as he should. To be placed in charge of human life is a serious responsibility. To most men it causes great anxiety; but the laity do not believe it. The innovation is to be commended; and if proper precautions are taken there can be only a minimum of danger of spread of infection—perhaps none at all.