

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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(To the Editor of the Canada Lancet.)

DEAR SIR,—On learning this evening of the sudden death of an acquaintance in Ottawa city, of small-pox, and of the increase of the disease in that place, I thought I would humbly suggest, through your valuable journal, the propriety of adopting, if possible, some means to stay its ravages. It is simply that of ordering the person or persons, suffering from that disease, to anoint their bodies and limbs throughout, with carbolized oil, daily, and also to daily wash their bodies thoroughly with soft water, slightly carbolized; the anointing to be performed after the whole person has been washed, and gently dried with some soft fabric. This process should be commenced before the patient or patients are allowed to leave their sick room, and continued until such time as all the diseased skin has been removed, and a new and healthy one formed. My object in this plan of treatment you will perceive, is to prevent the spread of this much dreaded malady, by keeping the particles of diseased and desquamated skin from being set free from persons who have recently suffered, and contaminating healthy persons, by being inhaled or deposited on their exposed skin, while slight or imperceptible perspiration may be on its surface, and (the floating and free particles) adhering, soften with perspiration, and the poisonous or contagious part absorbed. These floating particles may also get into the water drunk, or food eaten, and thus be a mode of contagion. I would like to impress on the minds of my medical brethren, that every effort should be brought to bear on the treatment and prevention of spreading of such a fell destroyer, and disfigurer of the human family. It is for this reason that I humbly offer these suggestions, trusting they may be of some service to the profession, as well as to the public; for as far as I can learn, it was through some persons who recently had the disease, visiting the office of my late acquaintance that he took the disease which so suddenly bereft his mourning family of one so dear. Some members of the profession I have no doubt will not believe in such modes of contagion, but, I assure you, I have some proofs of this theory in practice. A man, travelling up the river Ottawa, a few years ago, "put up" at a hotel,