

remarked by the patients themselves that the treatment of Dr. La Bellois had always a much better success during the third period than during the second.

« At first the victim feels devouring thirst, great feverish action, and a singular trembling in every limb ; stiffness and a certain weakness in the joints ; a great weight on the chest like that caused by sorrow ; a rush of blood to the brain ; fatigue and drowsiness, and other disagreeable symptoms which now escape my memory. The entire nervous system is then struck, as it were, with insensibility to such a degree that a sharp instrument or a needle, or even the blade of a knife, buried in the fleshy parts or thrust through the tendons and cartilage causes the leper little or no pain.

« Some poor creature, with calm indifference, will place his arm or leg on a mass of burning wood and tar, and let it remain there until the entire limb, bones and all is consumed ; yet the leper feels no pain, and may sleep through it all as quietly as if in his bed.»

One of the nuns gives the following example of this astonishing insensibility : « Since we reached Tracadie two of the patients have burned their hands severely, and were totally unconscious of having done so until I dressed the wounds myself. » In regard to this torpidity of the system, M. Gauvreau remarks that it is but temporary, but he knows not its duration ; and the sister adds that the torpidity is not invariable with all the patients, and with some only in a portion of the body. In certain individuals it is only in the legs ; in others, in the hands alone ; but all complain of numbness like that of paralysis.

« By degrees, » says M. Gauvreau, « the unnatural whiteness of the skin disappears, and spots of a light yellow are to be seen. These spots, in some cases, are