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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

XII.—*On the Ectrotic or Abortive treatment of Small Pox.* By A. VON IFFLAND, M.D., Member Royal College Surgeons of England; and Vice-President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada.

In the army medical reports of Dr. Wright, he observes that the apothegm of the ancient Jews, was, that, "no man discharged his duty to his country, who died without having planted a tree, built a house, and left a child behind him." If I was asked to suggest an improvement of the saying, I would intimate that the Physician is obnoxious to the charge of neglect of duty to the community, who passes through life without having at least attempted to discover some new fact, or *verify* some already *expressed hint* which may sustain the relationship of an improvement, either directly or indirectly to the *ars medica*.

One, among the many subjects, to which my attention has been directed this season, has been the application of a modifying power over the variolous pustule, and in preventing the maturation of these pustules, and the subsequent pitting, while attended with no danger to the patient.

I should promise, that a few years since, several cases of small pox having fallen under my treatment, I selected two cases (females) where on the eruption had extended confluenty on the forehead, face, neck and arms; but on the lower extremities, discrete.

The parents having seemed more anxious to preserve the beauty of their faces—and they were truly beautiful—than the saving of their lives, the tincture of iodine, as recommended by my late lamented friend, Dr. Crawford, was painted over part of the face of one of the patients, but the pain became so intense, that after going through one side, I was under the necessity of desisting.

Some two years ago, Dr. J. A. Sewell, of Quebec, was very desirous