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AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY QUACK IN FRENCH CANADA.

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A lawsuit which took place a century and three quarters ago sheds an interesting sidelight on the state of medicine in French Canada in the eighteenth century. In 1737, Ives Phlem brought an action at Quebec against Madame Marie Turgeon, widow of Jean Bilodeau, based upon an agreement made between her late husband and the plaintiff Phlem; and the following are the facts:

Phlem was a bas Breton, born at Morlaix, some thirty-seven miles east northeast from Brest, France. When a lad he was taught to bleed and to dress wounds; he learned simple remedies for various ailments; and he acquired somewhat of a reputation among his townsmen. But every Breton is by nature a sailor and a wanderer; *naturam expellas furcâ, tamen usque recurret*, and the young Ives set sail from Jacques Cartier's port, St. Malo, for Canada. Arriving there, he was seized with a severe illness, which left him in a deplorable state.

He had the utmost difficulty in making a living; the art which he had in a sense acquired at home in France he could not exercise because he spoke only Breton, a Celtic language closely allied to Welsh and ancient Cornish, and as different from French (which with the exception of some Indian dialects was the only language spoken in Canada) as Gaelic is from English. This difficulty, however, was at length overcome; and he secured a fairly large list of patients who consulted him for different maladies; his reputation grew and he became well

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