

"Through the pores of the earth the germs escape and reach the atmosphere; others are carried by the heavy rains, so frequent among us, into the streets and squares, and there meet with conditions favorable to their evolution, and give rise to epidemics during the summer, the latter season being the most favorable for their appearance and spreading. The existence of the microbes of yellow fever is completely in accord with the observations made by Pasteur, touching the subject of malignant pustule.

"I take the liberty to recommend these facts to hygienists. It seems to me that, as a provisional measure, the cemeteries now existing should be removed, and placed as far away as possible from centres of population, where the prevailing winds cannot take up and scatter the different seeds of the microbes. As a radical and final measure the practice of cremating the bodies of those dying during epidemics would be the surest way of stamping out the poison and the epidemics that desolate year by year, with more or less intensity, the flourishing centres of our population.

"If every dead body is a storehouse containing millions of these organisms, the product of disease, imagine what a cemetery must be, in which new *foci* of disease are formed around every corpse. The imagination is incapable of estimating the literally infinite number of these microbes that multiply in these spots. Amid the silence of death, these worlds of organisms, invisible to the naked eye, are constantly working to make new poison for new victims, destined to serve them with food and for the fatal perpetuation of their species."

The above is all that has appeared in print, so far, of Dr. Domingo Freire's researches; when new material appears, I shall translate and forward it. The subject to us here is one of the greatest importance, as yellow fever is endemic, unfortunately, on the Isthmus of Panama, and its vicinity. The researches and observations made by Dr. L. Girerd, Surgeon-in-Chief of the Inter-oceanic and Canal Company, stationed at the Company's Central Hospital here, will form the subject of a future letter. He has examined the blood, etc., of a number of yellow fever patients, and has conducted a great many experiments by propagating the germs from one series to another successfully.

PANAMA, SOUTH AMERICA,

June 16th, 1883.

## TREATMENT OF YELLOW FEVER.

(Translated for the CANADA MEDICAL RECORD).

By Dr. WOLFRED NELSON, Panama, South America,  
June, 1883.

The following is a brief summary of the treatment of yellow fever in Peru. It was introduced there in 1868 by Dr. Wilson, an English graduate in medicine, when he was physician to the English Hospital in Callao. During the fearful epidemic of yellow fever in that city, in 1868, his success was something remarkable,—only three *per centum* of his patients died.

The report recently published in Peru, in the language of the country, Spanish, goes on as follows:—"When the patient feels that his skin is dry, and that he has a headache (they being infallible symptoms of the disease) he should be made to perspire profusely. The best way to produce the perspiration is by means of hot air. To do this, place a small spirit lamp, or a coal oil lamp, under a chair having a solid seat, let the patient sit on the chair perfectly naked, but well covered with a blanket; let him remain until profuse perspiration commences. Then put him in bed, where he should continue perspiring freely for one or two hours. Rectal injections should be given immediately, containing oil of Palma Christi, with soap suds and a small quantity of spirits of turpentine, the injection being warm. This treatment should be continued three or four days, and should always be followed by profuse perspiration and emptying of the bowels; following the above give three or four doses of four grammes each of sulphate of quinine at intervals of four hours exactly; then for two or three days more give six to ten drops of spirits of turpentine, in gum water, or with the white of an egg.

Further it has been noted, that the greater part of those who have had yellow fever have been constipated previously. As a precautionary measure, the bowels should always be kept open. The sun and dew should be avoided, stimulants should be used in moderation. No fruit of any kind should be eaten.

The best preventive that the local authorities can impose is to prohibit the sale of all fruits."