

## THE NORTHERN LANCET.

## THE PANDEMIC OF INFLUENZA.

There is no doubt, notwithstanding the sage professional opinions we read in the dailies, that La Grippe has caught many of Winnipeg's citizens. Fortunately our natural surroundings are such that with timely precautions and early yielding, instead of fighting against its embrace, the unpleasant grip usually relaxes its hold in four or five days. Of all epidemics that of influenza is the most ubiquitous; and not only does it subject mankind to its ravages, but acts in a very similar manner on horses and dogs, as well as on domestic fowls. The symptoms of this catarrhal affection of the respiratory and intestinal tract are too well known to require further mention. Fortunately their extreme severity in many cases, and their entire disorganizing effect are no indications of a serious result, as except in old age, constitutions debilitated by previous disease, and young delicate children, the prognosis is in all cases favorable. Seifert supposes the influenza germ to be a particular chain forming micrococcus. The epidemic usually appears in northern latitudes in the cold season, and in tropical countries in the summer months. The first epidemic of the kind noted in England occurred in 1173. Russia has generally been the initial point of the disease, but the epidemic of 1757 commenced in North America, gradually making its way eastward, invading England and Scotland in the September of 1758. We read in some papers that an outbreak of cholera may be expected during the coming summer and autumn, but such predictions are as absurd as they are mischievous and groundless. The treatment of influenza should be expectant and symptomatic, and it is very necessary to disinfect all handkerchiefs in use by those who are affected.

INFLUENZA has attacked several local medical men, a circumstance of which the public are kept well posted by the reporters. These peripatetic and most

inquisitive of their genus seem to have no regard to the sacred privacy of domestic life, its sorrows or its joys, but dish up tit bits of gossip for the matutinal delectation of the readers of their several journals, with details so minute as almost to include the number of handkerchiefs used by Dr. A. and the amount of sneezing got through by Dr. B.; and, while still battling with the grim spectre, appears the obituary of one whose friends and relatives were still hoping that God's mercy might be extended to the sufferer and that he might be spared to the sorrowing relatives and friends surrounding his couch of pain. Surely this lifting the veil of private life to the public gaze is being carried too far, and matters more generally interesting and less personally offensive might be found for the columns of the dailies.

## DEATH OF DR. R. B. FERGUSON.

It is with feelings of very deep regret we chronicle the death of Dr. Robert Buchanan Fergusson, which occurred at the Clarendon Hotel in this city on the 11th ult. at the comparatively early age of 51 years. Up to the date of his fatal illness, Dr. Fergusson was in the enjoyment of robust health, but a neglected cold, which developed into pneumonia, deprived our profession of one of its most skilful and respected members. Dr. Fergusson was born in Canada, of Scotch parentage, at Lanark, in Ontario, graduating at Queen's College, Kingston, and for some time practiced in Perth. He removed to Winnipeg in 1879, and soon acquired a large practice. He was one of the active promoters in establishing the Winnipeg General Hospital and the Manitoba Faculty of Medicine, occupying the position of Surgeon to the Hospital, and Professor of Midwifery in the Medical College, to both of which institutions his demise will prove a very serious loss. Somewhat brusque in manner, strong in his likes and dislikes, an honest and kinder heart did not beat; and all who enjoyed his intimacy held for him a warm and sincere friendship. He was a man of great force of character, entering on