

contents of the stomach had a strong odour of the turpentine. After the operation of the emetic, aq. ammonia acet. ʒi., omni hora, cold applications to head, and flannel cloths wrung out of hot water to be constantly applied to the epigastrium. At 6 P.M., same day, eight hours after I first saw him, much improved; is quite lively; pulse 120; bowels loose; had passed eight small worms. Ordered tinct. opii. iv., and spt. æther nit. gt. v., to be given at bedtime.

On the following day decidedly better; slept well during the night; slight pain in the bowels on pressure. Gave ol. ricini ʒij. From this time he was daily recovering, except a little excitement about the brain, but in four or five days he was perfectly recovered.

I have no doubt, if the child had been neglected, he would have paid the debt of nature for this "singular debauch." However, this case may prove a warning to parents and others leaving medicine (although not ranked poisons) in the way of children; many have fallen victims by such neglect.

Richmond, C.W., Sept. 29, 1846.

USE OF CASTOR OIL IN MUCOUS MEMBRANE CASES.

By Dr. THOMSON, Burton-on-Trent.

[Dr. Thomson believes there are but few cases of diarrhoea occurring in infants under a year old but what may be cured by castor oil, even when ulceration has taken place: as shown by a predominance of blood in the evacuations—tenesmus, abdomen tumid and painful, mouth dry and aphthous, &c., &c. He gives the castor oil with yolk of egg, and according to circumstances does or does not add a gentle opiate. He recommends, however, as accessory, the warm bath, liniments to the abdomen, and occasionally a mild mercurial dose. He observes]—

No mercurial so quickly changes the character of the evacuation as the emulsion, which only requires to be steadily persevered in. The following is the form in which I generally prescribe it for infants:—For an infant of from two to four months old: R. Ol. ricini. ʒi.—ʒiiss, Vitelli ovi semis., Aq. aneth. feneculi, aa. ʒi. Ft. emuls. Sumat. coch. parv. bis. die. To the above, from two to six drops of laudanum may be added, or not; but, of course, this as well as the size and frequency of the dose, must vary with the case. The mixture is generally taken readily, and even liked. The same preparation is equally useful in that form of intestinal affection which is met with in children of from one to nine years of age, but presenting slightly varied symptoms, such as the tendency of the evacuations to become watery, brown, black, and very offensive; the picking of the lips, nose, &c. In a case of this nature which lately came under my care, the patient, a boy aged three years, lay almost insensible and somnolent. The evacuations, resembling black dirty water, and very offensive, were passed eight or ten times in the twelve hours. Other symptoms of subacute inflammation of the mucous membrane were also present. After the first dose of simple emulsion, there was no motion for thirty-six hours, all the other symptoms becoming ameliorated. The medicinal action of oil is certainly much modified by its union with the yolk of egg; for the same dose which would act well as an aperient alone, when thus combined will scarcely act at all.—*Monthly Journal of Medical Science.*

STATISTICS OF CRIME IN THE DISTRICT OF MONTREAL

By Mr. Justice McCORD.

To the most superficial observer, the enormous increase

of crime in this Province, and particularly within the populous District of Montreal, must be self evident.

Six courts, holding criminal jurisdiction over the District, are annually held in this city, and their proceedings are carefully recorded and published by the daily press, and the attention of the public directed, by many able communications, to the increasing evil, and the necessity of taking measures to check the torrent.

Thus far nothing has been done.

Believing that a tabular representation of the actual state of the criminal statistics of this District might call the attention of the Legislator to this moral disease, and induce him to apply the healing remedies so urgently called for, I have compiled tables showing the disproportionate increase of crime over population, since the year 1828.

The awful result come to, is, that whilst population has increased in the ratio of 33 per cent, crime has augmented at the rate of 100!

The inquiry into the cause of this fearful increase, and its remedies, comes, properly within the duties of the Legislator, and in this examination I would respectfully direct his attention, among many other causes, to the following:—

The unnecessary number of houses of public entertainment, particularly those of an inferior class, such as taverns, beer shops, &c.; the total want of houses of correction and of refuge for young delinquents, and the absence of all prison discipline and classification.

In conclusion, I cannot forbear quoting the following extract from the *Law Magazine*, published in London, which so ably and truly depicts our actual situation in this colony; that it might be supposed written for us and not for England.

"Our punishments are ingeniously devised to abet their efforts, for not only are our prisons admirably planned for the further corruption of youthful offenders by the society of the vilest criminals before trial, but they induce the after-destitution, which, with valuable opportunity for the purpose, they do but little to prevent.

"Imprisonment, in the abstract, so far from improving, may harden the offender: and it often deprives him of the means of supporting himself with honesty, when it terminates, thus driving him to a return to dishonesty as his only accessible resource. It would be far otherwise if prisons were schools of industry as well as correction; and seeing the wonderful effects produced by the industrial system where it has been fairly tried, and a useful trade is taught, it appears a national wrong to defeat the chief object of punishment by neglecting the means of improving, whilst we imprison criminals. Measures for the separation of untried prisoners are, it is true, in progress in many places; a tardy removal of a crying evil. The introduction of the improvement of prisoners is yet to be begun. In the meanwhile let us remember that about eighty per cent. of all our convicted offenders are forthwith consigned to these normal schools of vice; that being the real character of our prisons before conviction."