

objections would be overcome. At any rate, if it should be impossible to compel cremation, the bodies of deceased patients should not be allowed to leave the grounds of the isolation hospital: they should be buried there and means taken to destroy their injurious properties.

Mr. Moore's evidence is worthy of consideration. It suggests a great desirability of legislation in Canada similar to that which in England regulates the importation of rags from Russia.

The sanitation of all localities is secured and maintained by keeping in repair all public ways and drains: by the early and complete removal of filth: by the rigid inspection and regulation of all unhealthy trades and establishments, especially by the prevention of over-crowded tenement houses and lodging houses: by ensuring a constant and abundant supply of pure water. With respect to this last, it is very important, especially when the source of supply is a lake, that it should be removed from human habitations, so that none such be permitted to drain into the area of its watershed.

At the commencement of any epidemic general directions should be published by the Government, with information as to the measures to be adopted, until the Health Officer shall intervene.

With respect to cholera, it may be useful to point out that the theories accepted by the best authorities of the day seem to be as follows:—

1. Asiatic cholera is an infectious disease, resulting from the entrance into the alimentary canal of a poison, probably a specific bacterium, whose history has not yet been clearly determined, *i.e.*, the poison must be swallowed, not inhaled, etc.

2. The disease is endemic in India only. Elsewhere it is imported. It may be imported by any vehicle, liquid or solid, which has derived, mediate or immediately, any of the specific poison from the alimentary canal of a patient. There is a divergence of opinion as to the degree of dryness, and the length of time necessary to destroy the bacterium. That a certain degree of desiccation and a certain lapse of time will destroy it, seems admitted; but the only admitted degree of desiccation seems to be that attained in a furnace.

3. No amount of filth or moisture will generate the poison; but filth and moisture furnish the very best conditions for maintaining, invigorating

and propagating the bacterium, if once introduced.

4. The disease is not contagious in the sense of being communicable by contact.

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Ontario Medical Journal

Contributions of various descriptions are invited. We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere current medical news of general interest. Secretaries of County or Territorial Medical Associations will oblige by forwarding reports of the proceedings of their Associations.

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THE CIRCULAR OF THE SO-CALLED MEDICAL DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

As limitation of space in our last issue precluded an exhaustive criticism of the circular recently issued by the Defence Association, we have something further to say on the subject; and, owing to its hydra-headed nature, we must invoke the patience of the reader. At the outset we would lay down the axiom that no deliberative body exists in the wide world invulnerable to assault or faultless in judgment. Debate enlightens, and controversy paves the way for wisely concerted action. No two men ever yet have held identical views on all subjects, and within the Medical Council there always has been, and always will be, a minority unable to see eye to eye with the ruling majority. It is, therefore, not to be expected that every member of the profession shall, on all occasions, unreservedly accept its policy.

The Medical Council does not claim for itself the quality of perfection; on the contrary, it has courted the advice of those to whom it is responsible. In ordering a full stenographic report of its proceedings, and thus letting the full light of day illuminate the Council chamber, it has manifested a spirit not averse to fair criticism, and, virtually, has said to every member of the profession, "Come, let us reason together"; and it is only fair to assume that any reasonable suggestion from outside would be taken into consideration. In proof of our assertion we may instance the invita-