

THE
SANITARY JOURNAL.
DEVOTED TO
PUBLIC HEALTH.

VOL. II.]

JANUARY 1876.

[No. 1.

Original Communications.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE PESTILENT CONDITION OF
THE TORONTO LUNATIC ASYLUM IN 1853, AND
THE MEANS ADOPTED TO REMOVE IT.

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If "by others' faults wise men correct their own," there must be "some soul of goodness in things evil." In every department of life we are perhaps more indebted, for rational progress and success, to the errors and failures of our predecessors or neighbours, than to our own unadmonished capabilities. A coast dotted with wrecks is safer to the vigilant navigator, than one whose hidden rocks and unsounded shoals, lying outside the courses of adventurous commerce, present to him no warning of their dangerous proximity. It assuredly cannot be said that the cultivators of sanitary science have not, from the ignorance and errors of past ages, if not also to a lamentable extent from the unquestioning servility of later times, been most amply furnished with wreck-marked charts, and memorial pages "rich with the spoils of time."

To what sources, mainly, are traceable, when thoroughly enquired into, the greater number, if not the whole, of the plagues and pestilences which have fallen upon our race, from the earliest days to the present time? The tergeminous sisterhood, "poverty, hunger, and dirt," have ever been their progenitors. It unfortunately devolves on the sanitary scientist or philanthropist, to combat the last of these "fatal