

the Protestant portion of the Smallpox Hospital. We hear that Dr. Rowell is a great favorite with the students and a first class lecturer.

Dr. Codd, of Winnipeg, has, we believe, been appointed Surgeon to the Mounted Infantry corps (regulars), which is being embodied in that city.

Dr. McNeece, (M.D. McGill) has resigned his appointment as assistant health officer in Montreal.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The following extracts from a letter written from the London Hospital to one of the Editors of this Journal may prove of interest to our readers:— Yesterday I saw a child with hydrophobia. "Oh, God, that I could paint a dying groan," then might I paint the unearthly expression of that infant's face when but the word "water" was pronounced. what a prolific ground for painters a hospital would be! But why should *we* seek the shadow when we have the substance before us? It is very useless for me to begin to write to you of London on less than ten sheets of foolscap, so I will drop the tempting subject and go to the hospitals for a moment. Sir Andrew Clark you know: he is a great man, but he is also among great men, and he fails to convince his associates that he has established his peculiar views on *Fibroid Phthisis*. I believe, however, that there have not as yet been found any bacilli in any case which he has called *Fibroid Phthisis*, and that will go a good way towards proving the non-identity of the different forms of *Phthisis*. Sir Andrew does not think, however, that bacilli are the cause of tubercle, but he is willing to say that where tubercle is there also are bacilli, and *vice versa*. As far as my experience goes I am of the opinion that the bacilli are not discoverable in the sputum until after a period when physical signs have made the diagnosis clear. In fact it is rare to find bacilli prior to a period when elastic tissue may be found in sputa, an absolute test of the existence of a cavity and usually of a tubercular cavity. Sir Andrew is an excellent ward teacher. He speaks in a clear voice, and is thoroughly systematic and practical. The name of Hughlings-Jackson is almost a household word in England. His acuteness in the diagnosis of nervous diseases has made him the greatest authority in England on that particular branch. His theory that chorea and epilepsy are caused by multiple emboli in the small vessels of the cortex and other gray matter of the

brain is not considered proven, inasmuch as they fail to find such emboli *post mortem*, except in a very limited number of cases. The theory has this in its favor, however: *every* case of death at least of chorea has, *post mortem*, shown vegetations on the valves of the heart and in *half* of the cases endocardial murmurs have been made out before death. On the other hand, again, it is noticed that in nearly every case of *slow* death, the autopsy shows vegetations on valves, whether caused by chorea or not. However, his theories turn out, when he gives you a thing as a fact you need seek no better proof. He is one of the most careful men I ever knew, and for his great reliability, if for that alone, he is of priceless value as a clinician. Dr. Sutton who is not so well known as his colleague, Sir William Gull, is a great thinker and worker. He knows neither law nor rule in treatment of diseases. He is showing to the world by statistics that more of his cases get well without drugs than with them. You will smile when I tell you that I have seen him prescribe whiskey alone, in a case of acute articular rheumatism. I have known him as the sum total of the treatment to advise a patient with lobar pneumonia to sit up an hour a day and indulge in plenty of good, cheerful conversation! Whilst he is one of the most successful of physicians he is the rock on which many a student founders when he comes up for his final examination.

Of the surgeons at the London Hospital, Mr. Treese is the most popular teacher. He always prepares his case thoroughly, and gives it to you fully, yet concisely and to the point. He has a host of followers in the wards, and a large audience in the amphitheater. Mr. Bryant of Guys is known to every one by his excellent work on surgery. Not only is he authority on surgery but he is a born teacher. His voice is clear and musical, and not a word need escape the listeners. Mr. Bryant says, however, that he cannot keep his wounds sweet with corrosive sublimate solution, and uses a solution of iodine instead. The carbolic spray is still used in most of the London hospitals, but other matters of detail in antiseptic surgery are not so well carried out as in New York. The extreme politeness and cordiality received from the men whom I have met here is very pleasing to one. As I accepted a short season of work at the London hospital, I have not seen much outside, but may write you again in future.

"W. P. S."