

been suddenly removed by death, and that frequently with a noble self-sacrifice during the *raging fever* or the *dire pestilence*.

The time is now fast approaching when a plan of action must be submitted for the approval of the profession, and it is with no small feeling of the responsibility that I may be called upon in furtherance of the proposed measure to suggest or mature some means of acquiring the end in view, but I trust that during the interval of the Triennial Meeting the subject may be freely discussed through the means of the *Journal*, so that immediate action may then be taken thereon, "that we may, with combined energy and zeal, be ready to assist in securing to our brethren a refuge in need."

The importance of such a measure demands but little to be said in its favour, after the feeling and truthful appeal already made by the writer in the article referred to. It is the ways and means of action that require to be brought out, and it behoves all and every member of the profession at once to be up and doing, while many of us are enjoying life, health, and prosperity. But let us reflect what would be the position of our families, were death now to remove us, and to enquire what really is the position of some of the widows and orphans of many a noble brother who has toiled single-handed with disease, through midnight rides of dreary rain and snow-storms, administering alike at the downy pillow of the rich and at the lowly couch of the poor, to the relief of suffering, and for the health and happiness of others.

I, for one, shall be glad to see the subject brought publicly *in detail* before the profession, so that any suggestion may be well and duly weighed and the end thereby accomplished, so that the voice of the widow and orphan may hereafter bless the institution that offers to them a fostering hand, when their only earthly succour, comfort, and support lie mouldering in the dust.

St. Martin, Isle Jesus, Nov. 1, 1861.

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ART. LIX.—*The Medical Statistics of the City of Montreal.* By GEORGE E. FENWICK, M.D., Physician to the Montreal Dispensary and Infirmary for Diseases of Women and Children.

*Continued from page 442.*

*Dentition.*—Under this heading we find a return of 124 deaths, of whom 122 were under two years of age. This is an unusually large proportion of deaths from this cause: the probability is that many of the cases are improperly classified. Death, the result of irritation during dentition, is by no means so common as is imagined. This process is sometimes attended with much fever, general inability, great thirst, the gums often hot and swollen, the head hot, with apparent determination to the encephalon, broken slumbers, restlessness, the child awakens in a state of alarm or in a fit of crying. There is always more or less derangement of the chylo-poietic viscera. These symptoms, often in themselves greatly modified, may be converted into serious disease, if not endanger the lives of the little patients, by neglect or improper treatment on the part of nurses, it is too common a custom to give an infant food every time it cries, the stomach becomes thereby overloaded, and the digestive process interfered with. Another most pernicious practice, but one which I am happy to say is daily