

British Columbia.

Under control of the Medical Council of the Province of British Columbia.

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IMPERFECT QUARANTINE.

There is much ground for complaint because of the incomplete manner in which the sanitary laws are enforced by Dominion authorities at the Albert Head quarantine station. A few weeks ago the "S.S. Empress of Japan" arrived from China with four smallpox cases aboard among the Chinese steerage passengers. There were about 700 Chinamen and quite a number of Japanese passengers, all in the steerage, aboard at the time. The cabin passengers were quite numerous, too. The steerage passengers were removed from the vessel and placed in quarantine, but the saloon passengers were allowed to land as soon as the vessel was fumigated, and went on their way rejoicing. There has been a good deal of dissatisfaction at this way of carrying out the law, as there is a great possibility and probability, too, of the saloon passengers becoming infected from those in the steerage. On board a ship carrying Chinese passengers in large numbers, the surgeon and the purser are supposed to visit them in their quarters daily to see if they are all well, and as these officers come in continual contact with the first-class passengers, there is a good deal of danger in conveying such a contagious disease as smallpox. These passengers go to all parts of America and Europe, and may thus be the means of spreading disease far from the place where it has been contracted. During the past few months quite an epidemic of smallpox has been raging in various parts of England, and some of the newspapers there claim that the disease has been imported *via* Vancouver. We would not be in the least surprised if such were the case, for so far as first-class passengers are concerned, there is no precaution exercised with regard to them. Who is to blame in this matter? That is the question. The medical officer who has charge of the station, we feel quite certain, knows his duty in these matters, and it would be quite unfair to blame him, for if he were allowed his way all passengers would be treated alike. At the present time there is quite a

rivalry between the Empress Line of steamers, running to Vancouver, and other steamship lines having their headquarters in San Francisco and Seattle, for the passenger traffic between these points. The result is that every effort is made to rush the first-class passengers through to their destination with as little loss of time as possible. In consequence, little regard is paid to quarantine enactments, all of which tend to delay passengers and injure travel. While such a condition of things is allowed to exist, sanitary laws are a farce, and in a way might as well be abolished altogether. We have suffered a good deal here already from flagrant breaches of the law as regards quarantine, but the danger does not threaten us alone, for all along the line of the C.P.R. and its branches, the safety of the public is endangered. We are all anxious to see our great national highway encouraged, and every effort made to secure its pre-eminence over all rivals, but surely that should not be done at the sacrifice of the lives of the people. The people of the East do not know the continual danger which threatens them from the West, otherwise they would not look calmly on and make no sign of dissatisfaction as has hitherto been the case. Medical journals are not seen much by the masses—the more's the pity—as they often contain articles which are extremely useful to the people at large. However, we hope something will be done soon to remedy the present state of quarantine affairs.

A PRACTITIONER WHO OUGHT TO SUCCEED.

Some months ago we wrote an article for the JOURNAL on the prospects of a new medical man settling in British Columbia, and thought that possibly the facts we published might do good. There is no doubt, however, that in spite of anything we said to the contrary, some practitioner of special ability might locate anywhere in British Columbia and do well. By way of illustration, we will quote the following extract from a letter received from a medical man in Ontario, and whose abilities are of so unique a kind, that if anyone could possibly make his living here, this gentleman and others similarly endowed should do so. Here is the extract: