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ART. XLIII.—REMARKS ON THE SICKNESS AND MORTALITY AMONG THE EMIGRANTS TO CANADA IN 1847;

WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR AN IMPROVED METHOD OF REGULATING FUTURE EMIGRATION,

In a Letter to Sir William Burnett, M.D., K.C.H., F.R.S., Director-General of the Medical Department of the Navy.

By T. STRATTON, M.D., Edinburgh; Licentiate Royal College Surgeons, Edinburgh; Hon. Member Highland Society of Canada; Member Toronto Medico-Chirurgical Society; Corresponding Member Literary and Historical Society of Quebec; Surgeon, Royal Navy, Particular Service.

The number of emigrants that left the British isles for Canada, in 1847, was three times greater than that in the season of 1846. The sickness and mortality among them, have been very great; and the distress and destitution thereby accruing to the surviving relatives, have been such as to claim from the humane all their sympathy, and from those in authority all their ability to prevent or to remedy such evils.

The following is a copy of a report by Mr. Buchanan, Chief Emigrant Agent at Quebec, of the number of emigrants that arrived at Quebec and Montreal during the season of 1847, up to the 10th of November, and compared with the total number that arrived in 1846; there is also stated the mortality in 1847:—

Embar- ked from	Steer- age.	In- fants	Cabin	1846. Total.	Steer- age.	In- fants	Cabin	1847. Total.
Scotland,	1494	31	120	1615	3462	174	116	3752
England,	8435	455	273	9163	29833	2305	190	32338
Ireland,	20169	673	207	21049	51129	2835	365	54329
Germany,	875	21		896	7458	226	13	7697
Total.	30973	1180	600	32753	91852	5540	684	98106
Deduct last year's emigrants.					30973	1180	600	32753
Additional number in 1847.					60909	4360	84	65353

Number that died on the passage,	5,293
Admitted into Grosse Isle Quarantine Hospital, of whom died,	3,452
Died in Quebec Marine and Emigrant Hospital, and in the city of Quebec, up to 9th October,	1,041
Died in Montreal Emigrant Hospital, and in the city of Montreal, up to 1st November,	3,579
Total deaths,	13,365

(Signed.)

A. C. Buchanan, Chief Agent.

Up to the 1st of November, and as far inland as Montreal, one emigrant in every seven had died; many of those who passed on from Montreal, sickened and died at one or other of the different places on the route—Prescott, Brockville, Kingston, Toronto, St.

Catherines, Brantford, New London, or Amherstburg; and during November and December, there have been many deaths in the different emigrant hospitals, so that it is understating the mortality to say, that of those who left Britain, one person in every five, was dead by the end of the year. The number that died on the passage is 5,293. I believe I am correct in stating, that only three or four ships carried surgeons, so that almost the whole of this large number, died in a situation where there was no medical aid. The proportion of passage deaths to passengers is about one in eighteen, which is in sad contrast to what it was a few years before, when it was one in two hundred, (as stated by Mr. Hawes, quoted in Dr. Combe's excellent letter on Emigration, in the *Times* of 17th September, 1847.)

In the Kingston (Canada) Emigrant Hospital, from the beginning of the season up to the 18th of October, there were 1959 admissions, and 707 deaths, the mortality being 35 per cent., and there remained 431 patients in hospital.

In the Toronto Emigrant Hospital, up to the 22nd of October, there were 3300 admissions, and 757 deaths, being about 22 per cent., and 739 patients remained.

SICKNESS.

In the ships where there was so much mortality, (in some vessels one-third, and in others, three-fifths of the passengers died,) there was, of course, among the other passengers a great amount of sickness, weakening them for one, two, or three months, and incapacitating them for labour on their arrival in America.

CAUSES OF THE SICKNESS AND MORTALITY.

The sickness and mortality were almost entirely from fever, (typhus fever, and that variety of it called ship-fever,) and dysentery, and in some of the ships sailing from ports in Ireland, or from Liverpool, with Irish emigrants, we may reasonably suppose that some of the passengers might embark infected with typhus, and this would, in a week or so, develop itself, and afterwards spread among the passengers. Dysentery arises sometimes from improper and imperfectly-cooked food, and, in certain circumstances, it, also, is occasionally