

Be the fact so, or the reverse, I could mention the names of many in our profession in Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, and elsewhere, whose claims are far higher than the above named gentleman, were I not deterred by the fact that I should fall into the same error as Dr Grant's very injudicious friend has involved him in.

June 2nd, 1871.

Yours truly,

M. D.

THE EXTERNAL TREATMENT OF SCARLATINA.

BY DR. J. MUIR, ANTWERP, N. Y.

The article of Dr. W. E. Whitehead, of the U. S. Army, on the treatment of Scarlet Fever, copied in the last issue of the *Canada Lancet* from the *Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal*, presents some features, in reference to which a certain diversity of professional opinion appears to exist. I refer more particularly to the external treatment therein advocated. The application of water, (cold, tepid or warm,) to the surface of the body, and inunction, at intervals, with various fatty substances, form the two proceedings which most extensively obtain, and to which, in the present communication, I shall, for the most part, limit myself. And, that we may view both sections of the subject on their merits, and according to testimony adduced, I prefer that our consideration of them should be separate and distinct. Treousseau, Niemeyer, Liebmeister, Watson, Tanner, Flint, Wood, and many other acknowledged medical authorities give a very prominent place in their works to the external application of water, at different degrees of temperature, in the treatment of Scarlatina. Flint appears to favor the *wet pack* of the hydropathists,¹ while most of the others esteem a simple bath as equally efficacious. Mere sponging, however, has its advocates, and the somewhat heroic cold doucho or affusion is not without its friends. Perhaps to Priessnitz, in some measure, are we indebted for the more extended introduction of water as a remedial agent in Variola, Scarlatina and Rubeola.² But, while not a few of our most eminent medical teachers enjoin its employ-

1. A Treatise on the Principles and Practice of Medicine, by Austin Flint, M.D., H. C. Lea, 1868. 3rd ed., pages 810 and 922.

2. Hydratics, as practised by V. Priessnitz, of Graefenberg, Wm. Baidc, N. Y. 3rd ed., page 146.