

Dominion Medical Monthly

And Ontario Medical Journal

VOL. XXV.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1905.

No. 6.

Original Articles.

TRACHOMA AND IMMIGRATION.—OUR DETENTION HOSPITALS.*

BY J. D. PAGÉ, M.D., QUEBEC,

Medical Superintendent Quebec Immigrant Hospital.

Gentlemen,—Trachoma is a disease to which very little attention has been paid yet by the practitioners of this country, and in which even few specialists have had much experience. The rarity of cases among our native population is the excuse for its having been overlooked in the past.

But it now seems that the profession should no longer be indifferent to this subject. Since the institution of medical inspection the immigrants landing at our seaports are subjected to a careful inspection of their eyes on their arrival, and a certain proportion are found affected with trachoma. We therefore conclude that, previous to the institution of this inspection a great many who were affected with the disease settled in the country and are now apt to spread the evil among us. Some have gone West to live on farms, a large proportion earn their living in our cities, while too many are professional *peddlers*, and these are not the least dangerous for the community.

Although it is not my intention to enter into any discussion as to the different views held by the profession regarding the spe-

*Read before the Canadian Medical Association, Halifax, August 24th, 1905.