a like result on the individual concerned, and as having been effected by the same proximate cause — the conservative power of life.

Should this brief notice interest any of my professional brethren, I shall be amply repaid for making it public in the columns of the "*Lancet*."

Odessa, April 1, 1871.

MEDICAL SOCIETY FOR MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT.

St. Catharines, Tuesday, Feb. 28th, 1871.

The chairman, Dr. T. Mack, after alluding to the prevalence of a fatal type of scarlet fever at Hamilton, recommended a consideration of the nature and treatment of this formidable disease to the society. It seemed to be eminently a zymotic disease and some strange facts as to the length of time infection may be communicated have fallen under the notice of many medical men. Milk has been suggested as a vehicle for the propagation of infection from its well known property of absorbing the vapours surrounding the spot it is kept in. Decomposing blood and offal, the refuse of slaughter houses, frequently lead to its production and a severe form of scarlet fever especially effects butchers and slaughtermen, according to Dr. Carpenter, of England. Dr. Mack had known a singular case where a clergyman having died of the disease and his furniture having been sold, a lady who, during her confinement lay upon the same bed, more than a year after, on which he had died, contracted the disease, and died at a time when scarlet fever was not prevalent, and the disease, strange to say, was not contracted by any one else. This, if a coincidence is a remarkable one. The great fatality of this disease rendered it especially important in epidemiology. In 1863 and 1864 it destroyed in England alone, more than 60,000, and although it is sometimes very mild, yet the deaths are put at one in twelve cases of all types.

The congestive form of the disease is extremely formidable; he following is a fair sample. A negro lad, aged 17, complained of prostration, difficulty of breathing, anxiety, restlessness and the usual group of grave symptoms attending a severe form of