

right thing. We say this without the slightest partisan prejudice. The late Provincial Health Officer is not a politician, and the services he rendered British Columbia should have secured him from the attacks that were made upon him. His appointment was non-political, for we understand that he was selected at a meeting of medical men, held at Victoria the night before the order-in-council was issued by the Government, putting Victoria and the province generally under the operation of a common health act. For eighteen months' services he received some \$5,000, and when one considers the work done, the amount was not large. During the fifty-one days of the epidemic in Victoria and Vancouver, he merely received \$20 per day, and the amount of hard work he did for this, particularly in the capital, was something very great. The leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Mr. Beaven, was mayor of Victoria at the time, and whether through his carelessness or indifference, or both, there is no doubt that small pox was rampant in that city and nothing was being done to prevent its progress. If the Government took the control out of his hands, it was only at the last moment when things looked desperate, that it had to resort to this drastic measure to save the city and the province. The medical superintendence of the affair was put into the hands of Dr. John Davie, at the suggestion, as we have already stated, of a number of medical men in meeting assembled, and he did the work assigned to him so successfully that he converted enemies of the Government into friends. But so far as he himself was concerned, he was merely an official, and the fact of his being a brother of the Premier should not have entered into the question at all. Did he do his work well? should have been the question; and as to that, friends and foes alike must admit he did. Hon. Mr. Beaven should have been silent on the subject, for surely his administration of affairs does not reflect any credit upon him. It is to be regretted by all respectable men of every party that all questions, no matter how far removed they are from the mere angry discussion of heated partisans, are nevertheless dragged in by designing persons who think they can make capital out of them, though at great cost to the interests of right and justice.

THE THYROID GLAND

We have been favoured during the past month by Dr. Osler, the eminent Professor of Medicine in the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, with a couple of pamphlets, of which he is the author, one treating "On Sporadic Cretinism in America" and the other on "Tuberculous Pericondritis." We wish to return thanks to our old teacher for his kind remembrance of us, and will make the occasion of the reception of the pamphlet on sporadic cretinism an excuse for saying a few words on a subject which is occupying a good deal of attention at the present time in the medical world, viz.: the function of the thyroid gland. At the last meeting of the British Medical Association in September, 1893, a discussion was introduced by Mr. Victor Horsley, in the pathological section, as to the preliminary treatment to be carried out before grafting this body where its removal had been found necessary in cases of disease. Dr. Otto Lanz, of Berne, followed with some remarks on the nature of the muscular movements in cachexia thyreopriva in dogs. In a series of five dogs, in which the motor region in one of the hemispheres was removed either before or after the excision of the thyroid, it was found that the muscular twitchings, which were noticed in animals previously operated on without the destruction of the motor area, were increased in these particular cases on the paralyzed side. "A very remarkable phenomenon," says Dr. Lanz, "was that after complete recovery from the extirpation of the motor region, so that no trace of paralysis remained, the paralysis reappeared the same day that the thyroid gland was removed, and remained in the two dogs until their death from cachexia. This observation was a further proof of the great importance of the thyroid gland."

Though the function of the thyroid gland is not yet cleared up, yet it has been long suspected of playing a very prominent part in the nutrition of the tissues of the body. W. B. Carpenter, in an old edition of his "Principles of Physiology," stated that "the vascular supply of the thyroid body is extremely abundant," and went on to show that whatever the material is which is elaborated by it, it must be of great importance in the economy, inasmuch as it is directly absorbed into the blood, in consequence of the thyroid having no duct for