

viz., ice. In a climate such as we have in Canada, with its almost tropical summer heats, ice is a necessary and almost universal article of food, and is very largely used in the preservation by cooling of various articles of food. An idea has been prevalent until very lately, that the process of freezing water purified it. That idea is now known to be erroneous, very many pathogenic organisms having been demonstrated as unimpaired in their vitality and power for harm, by degrees of frost far lower than the freezing point. So that all idea of safety by the intervention of nature in this direction may be put aside as untenable, and we may look for and confidently expect to find in many cases, the deadly disease-germ lurking in even the purest-looking block of ice our dealers leave on our door-steps on a summer's morning. At a late meeting of the Provincial Board of Health the following questions were submitted to the meeting:—

1. "Is the ice used in the city a source of danger"? The answer was "yes."
2. "Should it be used in Hospitals"? "No."
3. "How far can it be said to effect the general health"? "Its use is attended with danger."

Now the above being established, and no one can gainsay it either as regards Toronto or most other Canadian cities and towns, it seems an unheard of anomaly that we should spend so much money in the warding off of disease by the inspection of meat, milk, vegetables, and in procuring a pure supply of water, and yet allow ice to be supplied, of the purity of which we have practically no guarantee whatever. A want of space prevents our writing anything further in this number; but we shall, in our next issue, deal with the practical side of the question and undertake to show how the present most unsatisfactory state of affairs may be remedied.

THE NEW TREATMENT OF LOCOMOTOR ATAXY.

In our last issue we gave a selection from the *Lancet* on the mechanical treatment of *Tabes Dorsalis*, which has no doubt been noted by all our readers. The question is so full of interest both from a scientific and clinical point of view, that we make this short note of later developments in this novel method of treatment. Not only *tabes* but

Fredreich's disease, *paralysis agitans* and various forms of chronic nerve-degeneration are now being treated by the suspension method in the London Hospitals, and apparently with very considerable success. One result of the treatment is the improvement, and in some cases the disappearance even, of the impotence accompanying the disease. It will be remembered that Dr. Motchonkowsky, the originator of the method, believes it is of use in cases of impotence not connected with *tabes*. Professor Charcot suggests that the improvement may be due to a modification of the circulation in the cord, or to a stretching of the nerves as they leave it. So far as has yet been reported no improvement has been noticed in the Argyll Robertson pupil, or in the reflexes. The method is of course too new to enable any definite conclusions to be drawn, but it appears to promise well. Not only has it been thus far successful at the Salpêtrière, but in the clinics of Professors Eulenberg and Mendel the results have been equally as happy. Dr. Charcot is publishing a carefully detailed account of the technique of the treatment, which will be translated into English by Dr. de Watteville in a few days. We hope to keep our readers posted as to the latest known facts regarding this important therapeutical agent.

THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

Some correspondence published in the above journal goes to show that a number of the members of the British Medical Association have become dissatisfied with the manner in which it has been conducted. They have addressed the President of the Association, in a circular, in which, while they state distinctly that the editorial duties pertaining to the Journal have been ably performed, they take issue with the management, arguing that "An opinion has for several years been widely held that the lines on which the Journal is now conducted, which are similar to those of proprietary journals, with anonymous articles and reviews and multifarious advertisements, are not suitable for the organ of our Association, for the sayings and doings of which our members individually are responsible." They recognize the fact that the Association will, by the proposed change, suffer pecuniary loss; but hold that body should now be self-sustaining, and that the individual self-respect of the