

seem desirous of getting rid of the question altogether, and consider they have fully performed their duty when they have recommended the sum of \$50,000 for this specific purpose. For somewhere near half this amount the *Communité* of the Hotel Dieu have offered to erect upon their property an isolated building for the reception of small pox patients, and to maintain them at their own cost. It has, therefore, been proposed that this \$50,000 should be nearly equally divided between the Hotel Dieu and the Montreal General Hospital. From what we have just said, it appears that the authorities of the Hotel Dieu are willing to accept their proportion, but so far as we are aware no authentic expression of opinion has been made by those competent to act on behalf of the Montreal General Hospital. As regards the former institution we are unable to speak, but presume from their great wealth, they would not have any difficulty in carrying on the Small Pox Hospital. As regards the Montreal General Hospital, we do feel that the additional expenses which they would have to incur in the management of a separate hospital for small pox patients is a burden which its Committee, or Board of Governors, have no right to throw upon the shoulders of those who in the past and in the present have been the mainstay of that Institution. We therefore believe that they would not be justified in accepting any proportion of money which may be offered them for such a purpose. Indeed, we do hope that, upon calm reflection, the good sense of the authorities of both Institutions will induce them to refuse this proposed division, and unite in recommending the erection and maintenance by the city of—not a large small pox hospital—but a series of pavillions, upon the outskirts of the City. In this way the unfortunates who might be stricken down with the disease would be placed under circumstances, where, with medical treatment and the latest and best sanitary arrangements, their prospect of recovery would be at a maximum. This matter has, as we have already stated, created considerable discussion, not only in the council, but in the daily press by means of editorials and correspondence. So far as we have been able to trace the matter, only two objections which are at all likely to have weight have been advanced against it. One is, that only indifferent catholics would enter an institution where they could not at all times be surrounded by the outward emblems of their religion. Now, although this objection is urged by one who signs himself “a member of the Sanitary Committee,” and therefore presumed to be blessed

with a little more than average intelligence, we pronounce it a base slander upon the 28,000 Roman Catholics who have since the opening of the Montreal General Hospital, been admitted within its walls. In that Institution the Roman Catholic clergy, with their worthy sisters of charity, have as free ingress as they would to any Roman Catholic house in the city of Montreal or elsewhere, and in the name of common sense, what more is it possible to grant; yea, what more is it possible to ask for? To attempt to argue the point is hardly worth the time it takes. Incidents of every-day life disprove it, for in fatal cases in hundreds of families, who are good and devoted Roman Catholics, we have known the attendance of clergy and sisters to have been just what we have seen, time and again, bestowed upon the poor, and, in many cases, friendless patients of the Montreal General Hospital. This argument then is worthless. The only objection of any weight, in our opinion, which has been urged, is the fact that to place the hospital under a committee of the City Council would be to open up an avenue for jobbery and the exercise of undue influence, and a number of other petty grievances which it is needless to detail. We are free to admit that there is a certain amount of possibility, and even probability, that such might occur; but that would not prevent the hospital performing its allotted work, although it might cost the city a little more for maintenance. The city conducts through its council committees many important works,—its Road, Police and Water departments are conducted by committees, and if we are willing to entrust them with duties so important, and involving the spending of an immense amount of money, surely it is “swallowing a camel and straining at a knat” to say, that the conduction of an hospital, involving possibly at the outside, an outlay of \$20,000, cannot be entrusted to any committee of the Council. But if such should be the opinion entertained, what is to hinder the institution being placed in the hands of commissioners. It is an old adage, “that where there’s a will there’s a way.” We sincerely hope that the Council will have the will, and will find the way to establish a series of small pox pavillions, that they will be managed by the city, and that into them will be admitted all creeds and nationalities. Medicine is universal—she knows no boundaries, no creeds, no nationalities. Why then this discussion. In the name of the great majority of the profession in Montreal we protest against it.