

against us as a fault, nor with any greater fairness can its consequences, of which this present case is one. We have, on the first occasion which has presented itself, endeavored to remedy the latter by the only method in our power, and in acting as we have done, we are at a loss to conceive wherein we have exhibited a want of "courtesy" towards Dr. Crawford, whose claims to priority we have been advocating.

We think it proper, in connection with this subject, to give insertion in our *Periscope* to a second letter from the pen of Dr. Crawford on the same topic, which appeared in the tenth number of the *Montreal Medical Gazette*; and which will be found to embody the results of further experience.

ECTROTIC TREATMENT OF SMALL-POX.

Our readers will remember, that in the August number of the *Examiner* we published some observations on the "Ectrotic treatment of small-pox by tincture of Iodine," from the pen of our much respected townsman, Dr. Samuel Jackson, late of Northumberland. In the last number of the "British American Journal of Medical and Physical Science," published at Montreal, (to the well stored pages of which we are frequently indebted for valuable articles, published in our *Record*;) the article is copied, with a claim of priority in that mode of treatment for Dr. Crawford, of Montreal. Dr. Crawford's paper is republished by our contemporary, and bears date at Montreal, March 15, 1844, and of course takes precedence of the published observations of our townsman; nevertheless, no one who knows Dr. Jackson will suppose for a moment that he had the least knowledge that Dr. Crawford or any one else had preceded him, or he would have taken pleasure in awarding to him the fullest credit. Dr. Dunglison, through whom Dr. Jackson's paper came to us, had seen the "Montreal Gazette," and made a note of Dr. C.'s observations, but did not deem it necessary to mention the circumstance. That no intention; however, existed on his part to withhold from our Canadian brother the credit due to him, is apparent from the fact, that his paper is expressly referred to and the date given, in the last edition of Dr. D.'s "New Remedies," under the head of "Iodine," page 491, as follows; "Dr. Crawford, of Montreal, tried the comparative merits of tincture of iodine, and nitrate of silver, (in variola,) and gives the preference to the former. He found the application very manageable and very bearable." Having shown our contemporary's remarks to Dr. Jackson, he has sent us the following Card, which we have much pleasure in publishing; and in order to do full justice to Dr. Crawford, as well as for the sake of the valuable remarks which it contains, we have likewise transferred his paper to our *Record*.

"Dr. Jackson begs leave to state, that he never saw the 'Montreal Medical Gazette,' and that he never heard of it till to-day; that it was never known to one of the learned editors of this city; that in April, 1845, he took Drs. Nancrede and Bond to see his case of small-pox aborted by tincture of iodine; that neither of these, nor one of many others to whom he mentioned the subject, had heard of this medication; that he proposed to several physicians to repeat the experiment, which they did not, except Drs. Goddard and Sargeant; that for himself, he saw during the late epidemic only a few cases of mild varioloid, in which it was not important to experiment; that he is surprised to find, that of all the numerous periodicals of America and England, not one, as he believes, has noticed Dr. Crawford's

experiments; surprised too that the editors of the 'British American Journal,' his fellow citizens, should have withheld this courtesy; that though the small-pox has prevailed as an epidemic in New York, Baltimore, and Philadelphia, since the publication of Dr. Crawford, and every ectrotic was tried, no intimation of Dr. Crawford's paper got abroad in these places, that hence he has reason to hope that the editors of the British American Journal will not accuse him of appropriating Dr. C.'s labors; that he, Dr. Jackson, most cheerfully accords the priority of the experiment to Dr. C., on the authority of the British American Journal; that he is thankful to Dr. C. for having made more decisive experiments than his own; that he should not have published his solitary case, had not professor Dunglison requested him to do so, that he might have it to refer to in the fifth edition of his *New Remedies*, which was then in the press; that some time after he had given his paper to Dr. Dunglison, and after it was printed, the Dr. spoke of Dr. Crawford's experiments, but he had lost the journal in which they were printed, having merely retained a memorandum; that the experiments of Dr. C. could not have made a strong impression on Dr. Dunglison, for he neither practised them in our late epidemic nor taught them to others; that he, Dr. Dunglison, never heard of Dr. C.'s experiments till his own was printed; that even Dr. Dunglison never saw more than one number of the *Montreal Medical Gazette*, and that the omnivorous editor of the American Journal of the Medical Sciences says, 'I saw it mentioned in a Boston paper, and this is all that I ever heard of.' 'O curas hominum, O quantum est in rebus inane!'" —*Medical Examiner*, December 1846.

DEATH FROM LAUDANUM AT THE MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Coroner's Inquest—An inquest before Joseph Jones Esq., Her Majesty's Coroner for the District of Montreal, was held, on Thursday last, the 10th, and by adjournment on Friday, the 11th ult., at the Montreal General Hospital, on the body of Alexander Campbell, aged 32, a seaman, who died that morning from the effects of an over-dose of laudanum, accidentally administered to him in place of wine, by another of the patients. The facts disclosed at the inquest, indicate, in the strongest manner possible, the urgent necessity of a reform in the mode in which the medicines are dispensed in the institution, while we have not the slightest doubt, that the possibility of a similar occurrence will be for the future most carefully guarded against by the adoption of the proper and obvious precautions. We publish the case, however, as an instructive warning to all institutions of a similar kind elsewhere. It is the first mistake attended with fatal consequences which has occurred in the Hospital since its establishment, a period of about twenty-four years, during which about 40,000 in-door patients have received the benefit of medical treatment in it. This fact is announced, but not urged in extenuation of the error, which has been attended with such lamentable results on the present occasion.

The conduct of the Coroner throughout the investi-