

supervention and the development of cholera has been so brief, that without close attention, the fact might have been overlooked. A similar remark, we think, might be made concerning the degree of severity presented by the premonitory symptom. In disputed points of this kind it is always necessary to have correct appreciations of the premises from which the argument proceeds. It is, therefore, in the present instance, proper that the import of diarrhœa should be clearly known. By almost common consent, we believe, the term diarrhœa is now restricted in its meaning to alvine evacuations of a simply feculent character. In view of which it seems unavoidable that diarrhœa should precede cholera, as in the evacuation of the contents of the intestinal tube the natural matters must precede the morbid, as the former are present prior to the formation of the latter.

PAYMENT OF MEDICAL WITNESSES.

We have received the following communication on the subject from Dr. Gilbert of Hatley. We are afraid his case is not a solitary one, and as the cause of complaint is urgent, it should not remain unnoticed. Unless some stand be taken by the profession in maintaining its position as regards justice and remuneration, it will continue to be insulted and degraded. Tame submission to oppressive jurisdiction will be misconstrued as perfect acquiescence in imputed fairness and liberality. The only redress lies in resistance, and all acts of aggression waged in spoliation of personal rights, must be met with determined opposition. The defence, however, must emanate from the injured party. Unless we protect ourselves, Hercules will not help us. But to Dr. G.'s letter:—

Hatley, E. T., 3rd November 1854.

I was much surprised on appearing as a medical witness, a short time since, at the Court of Quarter Sessions in Sherbrooke, to learn on applying for my expenses that the magistrates had been ordered by a Judge (Rolland, I believe,) to reduce the medical mens' fees one half, and that on Dr. Johnstone of Sherbrooke, remonstrating with him on the subject, he had the impertinence to tell the Dr. that he thought medical men ought to render their services gratuitously to their country. I am sorry the Doctor did not ask him why medical men should be expected to do more for their country than Judges or any other class in the community. By your means as the professional organ of this part of the Province. I would wish to learn if such an act of tyranny can be perpetrated with impunity by any Judge at his pleasure; also, whether the curtailment has been extended over the whole Lower Province, or if it is merely some petty act of malice directed against one or more individuals in this vicinity. In either event, I believe, you will agree with me in thinking it a subject which ought to be taken up warmly and unani-