

an experienced surgeon, when such can be had in the locality. By consultation with men of greater experience, not only would the interests of the patients be conserved, but no small profit would accrue to themselves, as our greatest advances are made by coming in contact with those whose information and discipline are greater than our own.

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### AN UNFORTUNATE CITY.

Vancouver, as a centre for the outbreak of epidemic disease, especially small-pox, occupies the worst position of any city on the Pacific coast. It is the western terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and two great foreign steamship lines, one from China and the other from Australia, make it their headquarters on this side. The quarantine station is distant nearly one hundred miles, viz., at Williams' Head, in the vicinity of Victoria. Small-pox is almost constantly present in China, and as every steamship from Hong Kong has numbers of Chinese coolies on board, destined for all parts of Canada, the United States, and Cuba, this city is always in danger of an outbreak of that loathsome disease. Only a couple of weeks ago a case was discovered among the coolies in the custom house pens, where they were in waiting for shipment to Portland, Oregon. The city Board of Health removed him, and is treating him now in the local pest-house, at the expense of the people of the city of Vancouver. After the removal of the patient, the remainder of the coolies, some seventy-five in number, were kept in quarantine, and guards placed over them by the city authorities. The C. P. R. officials had the supreme cheek to write to the City Council, asking that body to defray the expense of feeding those seventy-five Chinamen during the fourteen days they were to be kept in quarantine. That was rubbing it in with a vengeance. Probably it was intended, if the city had not put guards on sheds where the coolies were confined, to have shipped off the whole lot to Portland, and let the Yankees take the risk of the disease breaking out after the Canadian Pacific Railway got rid of them, and being balked in the little game, the officials were angry and wished to bleed the city for the keep of the

suspects. The Canadian Pacific Railway should pay for the expenses of persons like the Chinese, who are immediately under their control till they reach their destination, or insist on the Dominion Government having sufficient quarantine stations for the accommodation of the shipping coming into the ports of the Province. It is a pretty hard thing to accuse the quarantine officers at Williams' Head with carelessness in the discharge of their duty, but there are rumors afloat that a case of small-pox was transferred from the *Empress of India* at Yokohama, and all the passengers vaccinated. If such was the case the steamer should have been detained longer at the quarantine grounds in order to allow any cases that were in a state of incubation to develop at the proper place, but, instead of that being done, a hasty inspection was made, and no cases were actually visible. She was allowed to proceed on her way, with the result that Vancouver had the benefit of the case when it came to maturity. Mr. J. W. Horne, M.P.P., one of the representatives of the city in the Local Legislature, a gentleman who has always the good of Vancouver at heart, introduced a resolution recently asking the Dominion Government to provide greater quarantine accommodation for the protection of Vancouver city, but, strange to say, for one reason or another it was voted down by an overwhelming majority of the Legislature. With foreign lepers and small-pox patients, not to speak of hundreds of suspects annually foisted upon her, the city of Vancouver's cup of grievances ought soon to be overflowing.

## Prince Edward Island.

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### SLEEP.

Sleep may be defined as that state of natural unconsciousness in which the voluntary powers are in a condition of insensibility, whilst the involuntary functions of nutrition, secretion, etc., are going on, increased, diminished or unaltered, according to circumstances. The cause of the sensorial inactivity of the voluntary system, and disconnection with thought generally, has been variously explained. The most general idea is that