

# MEDICAL CRITICISM.

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2ND SERIES.

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## SCARLET FEVER.

A girl has been lately sent by her parents from the country, to a public school in this city ; the girl had only recovered from scarlet fever a fortnight ; shortly after reaching the school, she had a relapse and died; we understand that twenty girls in the school are now suffering from this disease ; waiving the question of the criminality on the part of the parents, in sending a girl to school, under such a circumstance, without apprising the school-mistress of it, we think that two important considerations arise from this deplorable incident. (1) The necessity of enquiring if any pupil has been in contact with infectious disease, prior to admission, and (2) the necessity of knowing who, among competitive doctors, have never lost patients from fever, and who have ; this, as we are obliged to repeat, can only be publicly known by adopting the system of registering.

## THE INSANE.

We think that commiseration for this helpless class of the community would be greatly increased, if the prodigious ignorance of those who have the charge of them were apprehended. We know one gentleman, a large portion of whose life has been spent among them, who has publicly stated that one can no more predicate a man's mental characteristics by the appearance of his head, than one can tell the contents of a warehouse by its external appearance ; and we know that another—a bearer of College certificates, of course—when asked if magnetism could not be advantageously brought to bear on certain inmates, proceeded to confound it with clairvoyance ; these considerations may serve to illustrate the consequences of the unbalanced power committed to the hands of the medical faculty in regard to the insane ; consequences which, when the daily average population of such in Ontario (including 161 idiots) is known to exceed 2619.72, may well be regarded as appalling.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

Most persons who have anything to sell, avail themselves of some means of advertising, and on the assumption that what they have for sale, is worth buying, it is obviously to the interest of the public that the practice of advertising should be encouraged. *Caution* however is necessary in relation to this, as in all other great undertakings, for we find a nostrum advertised as giving ease to the chest, and this is to be dropped into warm water, before being taken ; it might be well for such as contemplate investing in this nostrum, to try the efficacy of the water first, and that they will know to be less expensive than the superadded nostrum. *Discrimination* also, as well as caution, is indispensable, in connection with these delicate