

THE FIRST EPIDEMIC OF CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER IN MONTREAL.

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GENTLEMEN.—Having recently seen a few cases of a disease which, so far as I can learn, has never previously been observed to have prevailed in this city, and the affection being one of a most grave nature, I have thought it might be interesting, as well as appropriate, to draw the attention of the Society to the subject.

On the 3d April last I was called to visit a boy aged nine years, residing in St. Maurice street, but attending the Christian Brother's School in McCord street. He had been in good health until the morning of the 2nd April, when, on waking, he began to vomit. The emesis continued "off and on" all day, and the bowels moved twice. He also complained of pain in his head and stomach, and was heavy and stupid all day. He had the small-pox six years ago.

3d April, 11 a.m.—Temperature, 99.4-5° F., Pulse, 100. Is very restless, throws himself about, and would fall off the bed if not watched. Very stupid, can be roused, but then mutters rather than speaks, and moans and screams as if hurt, resembles an intoxicated person who has not quite become unconscious. While head and body are hot, feet are cool. Tongue dry and red at point; thin white fur over centre. On neck, chest, and body generally are found purple petechial spots of various sizes and unaffected by pressure.

Diagnosis.—Acute Purpura, but whether antecedent to Cerebro-Spinal Fever or Variola cannot decide. A severe epidemic of the latter now prevails.

To be wrapped in a blanket wrung out of warm water for four hours, then to be rubbed dry. Two teaspoonfuls of brandy and 1-36th grain strychnia hourly.

5 p.m.—Temperature, 102°. Much warmer; less stupid; did not like the warm bath, and after three hours it was removed. Continue treatment.

4th, 10:30 a.m.—Temperature, 99.4-5°; Pulse, 75, small, soft, occasionally irregular; less restless; complains a good deal of pain in