

I suppose I might claim relationship with *Zadkiel* and Vennor, *et hoc genus omne*. I predicted nearly three months ago that an outbreak of small pox was at hand, and, lo! it appeared shortly afterwards.

Strange that this city should be the objective point of this dreaded disease every few years.

Doubtless it illustrates that mysterious law which *V morbilli*, scarlatina, pertussis, etc., also governs the periodic visits of. I fear that, in spite of all the precautions which the authorities may take, the infection will, as usual, spread to all parts of the city, and that our Civic Hospital, so long closed, will again have a season of active usefulness.

I wish I could pass the subject over with this slight allusion, but, in spite of Dr. Hingston's letter to the *Gazette* (April 18) I am afraid that somebody is sadly to blame for the spread of the disease. Didn't Dr. Rodger inform the Hotel Dieu officials that the patient he was sending thither was the subject of variola, and that he had just been exposed to the disease? Was it not well understood that the General Hospital authorities had very properly refused to admit him, because every one knew that he was carrying small-pox about with him?

Again, how many medical men will be convinced by Dr. Hingston's statements that the epidemic now prevailing arose *sua sponte*, and had no necessary connection with the case "about whom the physicians in attendance were not unanimous?" Surely, we cannot be expected to believe that with a case of small-pox already in the hospital, to which probably sisters, servants, friends, attending physicians and others had access "before a sister and a servant had been detailed to wait upon him," other cases should be regarded as arising from unknown causes?

The imported and first case was not isolated at all, in the proper sense of the word, but nearly two weeks afterwards when a servant in a "distant" part (why *distant* part? does Dr. H. wish us to understand that variola cannot travel 300 yards in the fortnight?) of the Hospital took the disease then she is placed in a building outside of the Hotel Dieu, the health authorities are communi-

cated with, and the disease finally infects the whole Hospital, which is, very properly, closed.

The *British Medical Journal* tells us how to make artificial cheese. Skim milk and oleo-margarine are made into an emulsion and the resulting cream (?) is added to more skim milk. Enriched in this way with fat the fluid can be made to yield a fair sample of cheese. An oleomargarine cheese (for which I would suggest the name *cheesette*) although it would have considerable nutritive value could not possibly have the flavor of the genuine article.

R. B. Hall, in the *Cincinnati Lancet and Clinic* (March 14) describes a laparotomy done by Dr. A. Martin of Berlin in his private Hospital. I speak of it because Martin is one of the few who now make any extensive use of the carbolic acid spray during abdominal sections. The account is too long to give here, but evidently Dr. Martin does not believe that if the object of the spray is to kill micro-organisms that are likely to infect the wound that that purpose may be accomplished by merely allowing a steamer to eject carbolized steam for an hour or so before and during an operation.

During the time of the operation and for half an hour before it is commenced the spray apparatus is kept going, so that the air in the room (a small one) is saturated with carbolized moisture. So thoroughly is this done that the water runs down the walls, and the clothing of operator and spectators feels and looks as if they had taken a bath. Dr. Martin and his assistant wear linen clothing during the operation, which is washed before it is again worn. The cloud of carbolized steam is so thick that one can see with difficulty, and it soon becomes so irritating as to cause coughing.

The preliminary precautions to be observed by the person who is invited to attend operations in his private hospital are as follows: 1. For 24 hours before coming to the hospital he must not go where there is infection. 2. He must wear freshly washed linen and clothing that has not been worn in the sick room or hospital. 3. In the operating room he must not touch instruments,