

taken only about seven lines to describe the method of this horrible operation in their fatal cases, on patients that would have lived for years if they had not butchered them. More recently they have taken to spaying women, as farmers do sow pigs, but as women were not intended for food except in dire emergencies, the great Creator didn't see the sense of such mutilations, and hence the majority die from the operation. God protect the poor women from the enthusiastic gynecologists and the extremists of every kind." So says Dr. Kennard, and we cry *Ame*, with all our heart and soul; but Great is Diana of the Ephesians, and there is a mint of money in the humbug.

REGISTRATION OF THE PREVALENCE OF DISEASE.

The only way by which we have hitherto been able to ascertain the prevalence of disease in Canada has been by means of that obviously imperfect source of information, the mortality returns. Even if these returns were perfect, it is apparent that they would afford no reliable data regarding the general state of health. Admitting this fact, the necessity for and the value of a system whereby we obtain a knowledge of the number of cases of the various kinds of disease in the different parts of the Province or of the Dominion, follows as a matter of course. Such a scheme has recently been put into operation in this city and in some parts of the Province, with the immediate object in view of ascertaining the influence of the weather on health. This, however, is not the only, even if it be the primary, point of importance to be considered in its favor. For example: Accurate statistics of the state of health will aid very greatly in enabling us to learn somewhat regarding (1), the origin and progress of disease; (2), the influence of locality in producing, or modifying the effects of, any special disease; (3), the prevalence of epidemics; (4), the proportion which exists at any time or place between the sickness-rate and the death-rate, and the ratio between the number of persons sick and healthy; (5), the operation of the sanitary conditions.

These are only a few of the points to be considered, but they alone should suffice to ensure the hearty co-operation in the scheme of all who have

the interests of science, and the well-being of humanity at heart.

To consider these points more in detail: The ever varying conditions of weather, the study of which constitutes the science of meteorology, have been acknowledged by all to have an important influence on the state of health; but exactly what that influence is on the different diseases is almost as much a mystery as ever. Our method of recording the various phenomena which group themselves under the head of weather has been so much improved of late years that the data may be regarded as tolerably accurate, for so much has been learned regarding the laws of the movements of the atmosphere, that it has become possible, with some degree of accuracy, to predict the changes of the weather from day to day. This knowledge of coming events, should prove most useful to us when we have ascertained the influence of the weather on health. It will enable us to take precautions to modify the effects of sudden changes of pressure, temperature, humidity, &c., which may influence diseases of the respiratory organs, the bowels, or the nervous system, &c. Any one who has given attention to this subject will see, that it is impossible to learn the connection between the weather and health from the mortality returns, for all that we can gather from them is that deaths from certain causes appear to be more or less frequent in certain seasons, or periods of the year.

The agency of climate comes properly under the influence of locality. While we shall be able to see at a glance from such data as it is proposed to obtain, the prevalence of any special disease, it will need accurate returns for some years, before any reliable deductions can be drawn regarding the agency of climate. Nevertheless, valuable information could be obtained, which would be of service in constructing a chart, showing the prevalence of disease in each locality. To any person afflicted with any special disease, such a chart, if accurate, would prove of inestimable value, while to physicians and to the public in general it would be most useful. The knowledge which such statistics would afford us of the prevalence of epidemics, would enable us to take such action as would be necessary to prevent their spread, or to mitigate their effects. The mortality returns are too late to be of service here, for the epidemic may be at its height before we obtain any indication of its pres-