

**THE CANADIAN MEDICAL TIMES.**  
A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF  
MEDICAL SCIENCE, NEWS, AND POLITICS

KINGSTON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1873.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**

Communications and reports solicited. Correspondents must accompany letters, if intended to be printed anonymously, with their proper signature, as a guarantee of good faith.

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**REMITTANCES.**

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**AN ELOQUENT TRIBUTE TO THE COUNTRY DOCTOR.**

Dr. McClellan pays the following deserved tribute to the frontier doctor: "Of our professional brethren, he who devotes himself to the relief of suffering humanity in frontier settlements surely earns the brightest crown. The remarks of the president of the American Medical Association, at its last meeting, on the pine-board hut, which served as home and office for the doctor of a Rocky Mountain railroad station, apply with equal cogency with hundreds of our profession. To our mind arises the face of a valued friend, a pupil of the illustrious Niemeyer, who devotes his life to an almost missionary work among the Mexicans. Separated from his home and kinsmen, undeterred by the pangs of hunger or fatigue, undismayed by the dangers of field or flood, by day and by night, he renders to the ignorant and superstitious inhabitants professional services which in older countries would secure to him the smiles of fame and fortune."

**STATE MEDICINE.**

What is it? Defined, and not ill-defined, by Dr. Hitchcock, of Michigan—It is the State placing the régis of her power between her citizens and preventable disease and death. It is the State securing her own upbuilding and perpetuity in the "sana mens in sano corpore" of her citizens. She finds a field for the exercise of these functions in the education of the people in respect to the nature and causes of disease. In her vigilant boards of health she must anticipate by preventive measures the approach of disease, or by wise, active, and energetic measures must stamp it out in its very first visitation. She must teach the people so to welcome king cholera that he will, with broken sceptre, crownless and victimless, slink away to the realms of shade. She must lay her hands on the projectors and builders of school-houses, and forbid that those buildings, designed to give development to the young, shall, by their height, faulty construction, ill ventilation, and miserable heating arrangements, implant the seeds of disease and premature decay in the very children who ought to be the hope of the State. She must lay her hands on the owners and builders of tenement houses, and say to

them, Your greed of gain shall not cripple or poison the children of the poor.

She must clean the crowded and filthy streets, fill up and disinfect reeking cesspools, steaming with pestilence, and drain the wet and marshy lands, breeding malaria. She must inspect and set her seal of purity on the meats, vegetables and all articles of vendible food. She must lay out, plant and cultivate parks, where the poorest sons of toil may take their weary selves and their children, to breathe for a little the life-giving air of heaven, and gain thereby a new lease of life, and a renewed insurance of health.

The fruits of these functions are already seen in the decreasing death-rate of cities and towns, and the increasing length of life.

By whom has State medicine been originated and fostered? And by whom must it be carried on to its future victories? I answer, by the medical profession. The thinking, earnest men among us must give direction and impetus to legislation. Some among us must be found willing, not to descend into politics, but to ascend for a time to the arena of the forum and the senate chamber, and there, by wise counsel, to lead the State to these grand results.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MEDICAL TIMES.

Sir,—In a recent number of your interesting journal (No. 19), you reiterate from the English Medical Times certain expressions of regret relative to the position held by, alas! too many of our brethren in the Dominion. That the medical profession here occupies a position much lower than the importance of their profession and the course of study which they are required to undergo, is in many cases too true; and in the article before quoted you give some causes in explanation. In accepting low fees, practitioners are actuated by different motives; some from love of their profession, without in anywise wishing to hold their services at a low rate, are willing to accept anything offered, or, as is too frequently the case, nothing being offered, the fee is put, not in accordance with the amount of brain tissue consumed, but with the ability of the patient to pay.

Again, others delight to be seen perpetually driving about in a hurry, and, under a cloak, accept the lowest fees. The difference between these two is obvious, as the former will get as a general thing the best (medically speaking) cases, while the latter will have a note-book which will scarcely pay perusal, if he has time to keep one; both, however, do equal damage to the professional status.

That a remedy is required for the growing evil is patent to all, and demands as united action among members of the profession as the stamping out of small-pox, or syphilis, but I doubt if legislative interference could as readily be procured. Much, no doubt, could be done by the formation of district associations and the publication of tariffs, such as may be found in Toronto and Hamilton, but after these charges are made it is exceedingly difficult to enforce payment, as many

who would, without remorse, spend ten or twenty dollars in a drunken spree would grudge to pay their doctor half the sum for attending them in their last attack of d. t., two or three years ago.

Keeping in my recollection college days, yet not wishing to dictate to those my masters who have long since passed the drudgery of the young practitioner, I believe much might be done during the various courses of lectures. Why should a teacher hesitate to bring before a student's notice the smaller difficulties which will beset his path when first he launches his professional bark, and give him some idea how to conduct himself on entering a sick-room and also the fees which he has a right to expect; or must he fall back upon his school-room days when his book-keeping taught him how to take an inventory of how much each article of his stock-in-trade cost him, and to it add a sum sufficient to enable him to pocket a balance after payment of expenses?

Many of our medical men are drawn from the middle-classes, where etiquette is not the brightest jewel in their crown, and who cannot be expected, as it were, by instinct, to be possessed of a knowledge of ethics, and are apt to undervalue their own services and opinions, while others are so possessed with opinion of self that no remuneration can repay them for but a slight expenditure of brain tissue.

Is it impossible for a professor in occasional friendly hints, or, better, pointed remarks, to strike a balance between the two natures? Early impressions are the most lasting, it is said, and such a course, I believe, would render the evils alluded to in the same number, under the head "Medical Experts" less frequent.

One more "yoke under which we groan," I would remark, namely, the non-payment of medical witnesses while giving evidence in court. It is high time that the "statute made and provided in that behalf" were changed. It is frequently the case that medical men are summoned (under severe penalty in case of absence) to give evidence, and must remain, day after day, until the case is called, and all for the sake of advancing the cause of justice! In the sister province ample provision is made for the doctors, and why not in Ontario?

I believe that these diseases, if incurable, can at least be palliated, and that all that is required is a long pull, and a strong pull, and a

**PULL TOGETHER.**

Ottawa, Nov., 1873.

**A FREAK OF NATURE.**

Under the unphysiological name of "L'homme-chien" there is being exhibited in Paris a Russian peasant of most remarkable appearance whose portrait, with that of his son, we have engraved from photographs. The father, Andrian Jefitchjew, aged fifty-five, was born near Kostroma in Russia. His whole face, nose, forehead, cheeks, and ears are covered with long brown hair, which extends also down his back, for some little distance. The skin beneath the hair is apparently healthy, and no nevusoid discoloration is to be seen even where the hair has been cut in order to enable the man to see. The French de-