

carried off shortly after the casual admission of some cases into that institution,—on one of which the process of venous injection of a solution of muriate of soda was effected, with wondrous apparent benefit. The man seemed to revive as if by magic. Heat of body returned; the pulse resumed its normal force and rhythm; the husky voice gave place to distinct articulation, and all seemed to promise escape; but the illusion was soon dispelled,—the poor fellow died not many hours after.

It was in the midst of the July horrors that a very strange personage presented himself on the streets of Montreal, calling himself the "*Cholera Doctor*," and asserting his curative potency over the disease. His name was Stephen Ayres. He was attired in the grandeur of a scare-crow; his outer garment had once been a great coat; but it now seemed to be the relics of a dozen, the lacerated tails of which he had knotted into distinct hanks. He said he had come from the far west, expressly to do battle with the pestilence. To give prestige to his advent he was followed by an old brood mare, and she had a train of two colts of the respective ages of one and two years. Stephen went fearlessly into every part of the city, and he had many more followers than his three quadrupeds. I saw him, in rather a clouded aspect, at the bedside of the Hospital matron an hour or so before her death. He had administered to her his cure—all mixture of hog's lard and charcoal; but it did not save poor Mrs. Stevenson. Of course Stephen, like many another knight of the mortar, said he was not "called in time." He disappeared, but not as did the majority of his patients, for he was afterwards visible in other parts.

The total number of deaths in Montreal, from the incursion of the disease till its cessation, was upwards of 3,000. Of these, 2,000 were ascribed to the cholera, but as this calculation would assign 1,000 to all other diseases, for a period of, say, one-fourth of a year, and the whole population was then about 30,000, it is manifest that the proportion given to cholera was much too low. I feel satisfied that 2,500 to cholera, and 500 to all other diseases, would have been much nearer to the right mark. During the winter of 1832-33, cholera was followed by a very fatal form of typhus fever. Among its victims was Dr. Caldwell, and, I think, Dr. Vallee, and some medical students, as

well as two or three matrons of the General Hospital.

The second invasion of Canada by Asiatic cholera, took place in June, 1834, which was a month earlier in the season than the arrival of its predecessor. This disease was unquestionably introduced by emigrant vessels, and its movements were in complete accord with those of 1832. It was quite as virulent as the first pestilence, but it did not attack so large a number of persons. Perhaps this comparative immunity was explicable on the ground that the former so-called epidemic had cut off so many of the weakly and intemperate classes, and had thus deprived it of its favorite *pabulum*. It was, however, my belief, that much was due to the general entertainment of more rational views of the primary cause of the disease, as well as of its secondary or predisposing causes, to which countervailing agencies may, without doubt, be added the observance of wiser hygienic rules. In 1834 we saw none of the tom-foolery that was inculcated by the *savans* at the seat of government, such as burning of tar barrels and firing of cannon in the public streets. One hot Saturday afternoon, in 1832, St. Paul and Notre Dame streets were treated to a series of explosions of artificial thunder, whether with the view of driving away one fear by the substitution of another, must be best known to the instructing wiseacres. It certainly did no harm to the glaziers. One of the city physicians, in reply to the question from the seat of wisdom, "What result did you observe from the firing of cannon on the streets?" briefly and most truly answered, "much broken glass."

The total number of reported deaths from cholera in Montreal in 1834, was 1,200. The highest number in one day was 70.

Canada remained exempt from cholera from 1834 till 1849, a period of 17 years. This intervening period when compared with that between 1832 and 1834, is a pretty clear illustration of the absurdity of the doctrine which teaches us to expect recurrences of the malady at certain definite periods. The next invasion in 1854, was an additional proof of the fallacy; and if we add to these the fact of the possible existence of the disease in Ontario in 1866, which will be noticed further on, and its too probable future visitation in 1883 or '84, surely but very slight foundation can remain on which the cholera prophets may base