

steamers and infected the country at large. Dr. McNaughton-Jones has been fully exonerated by the commission appointed to inquire into the cause of the outbreak, and it appears that he even did more than his duty in his endeavours to stamp out the contagion. But what can be expected from an officer who is only provided with a few pans of sulphur with which to disinfect a large steamer, and with very inadequate facilities on shore for accommodating first-class passengers. Since then, however, the means for coping with the disease have been very much improved. The station is now provided with machinery for administering the sulphur dioxide blast to infected vessels, and some commodious quarters are being erected at William's Head, which is more sheltered than the present location, and better adapted for fumigating steamers and ships in which contagious diseases have broken out. In the near future, therefore, we may expect good work at the hands of the Dominion Government quarantine officials. It, however, the Dominion Government last year was negligent in its duties, and allowed the Province to be invaded with a loathsome disease, we think too much praise cannot be given to the Provincial authorities for the prompt manner in which they acted, when it was only too evident that the populous districts of British Columbia were in danger of being overwhelmed with a scourge that one, at least, of the municipal bodies of the Province seemed to look upon with indifference, though it was rampant in their midst. We refer to the city of Victoria, where, unfortunately, from some cause or other, a great deal of mismanagement was shown and the rules of ordinary prudence set at naught. The mayor of Victoria apparently did nothing, but looked on while hotels and boarding-houses were turning out their tainted inmates, who walked the streets with the disease broken out upon them.

He said he had no money, he would provide no isolation hospitals, and though there were sixty cases in the city when the Provincial Government stepped in, he did not seem to think them of any more importance than if they were sixty cases of ordinary gonorrhoea. It was when matters stood thus, that the Provincial Government issued its order-in-council of July 11th, taking the administration of health out of the hands of the City Council of Victoria, and appointing Dr. J. C. Davis, Provincial

Health Officer. A vigorous policy was immediately adopted, isolation hospitals were run up with the rapidity of the famous beam stalk in the nursery tale, the cases were concentrated, medical attendants and nurses provided, and every precaution taken to stamp out the disease. It was a hard fight, but the result was a success, and to-day we are reaping the benefit of it by having hospitals prepared in all the cities for the reception of any sporadic cases that may occasionally break out. The expenditure last year was large because everything had to be provided new and at once, but it was money well spent, and though some personal difference were created, they were not of a very serious nature, and we have every reason to believe that the Government acted wisely in doing what it did. The Dominion Government was also stirred up from its apathy, and is bestirring itself to make up for its indifference in the past. The Province is practically free from the scourge of smallpox, the few convalescent cases at present being well cared for, and of no danger to the community.

ADULTERATED SPIRITS.

It has for a long time been generally understood that the various brands of wine and spirits imported from Europe to this country, especially those produced in France, have been largely adulterated. From time to time the attention of the public is drawn to this fact by the secular journals, and after the revelations thus made have excited surprise and probably alarm for a few days, the matter is again forgotten, till something occurs to revive it. Our attention has been drawn to this subject during the past week by a couple of circumstances which set us athinking; and as the question is one that is of great interest to the medical profession, a word or two might not be inappropriate at this juncture. The Paris correspondent of the *Week*, in a recent issue of that journal, published facts which go to show that, from investigations made by the Government analyst in places where liquors are sold in the French capital, samples of adulterated cognac and brandy were disposed of even in the finest cafes and restaurants of the city, the only difference between them and the lower dives being that the consumer had to pay ten times the price in the high-toned