

law of the economy, under the influence of which the globules unite with each other, and become invested with a coating, or membrane, probably of an albuminous nature. Here, then, according to Hassall, we have the same process exactly taking place within the vessels as occurs when the plasma is effused without them. What, then, would seem to be the reasonable interpretation to be placed on phenomena which are so uniformly observed?

Reflecting on the various forces which are in operation, and the necessity that exists that the healthy constitution of the blood should be maintained, I have thought that we may look on the increase of the white globules in the blood as conservative. We know from experimental investigation how essential it is to the maintainance of the red corpuscles that they should float in liquor of a certain specific gravity and certain density. If under impaired states of nutrition a copious supply of unappropriated plasma was thrown into the vessels retaining its liquid or diffused state, would not its density be changed? But as there is "a tendency to aggregation of these molecules into masses, and to form for themselves a membrane," perhaps we may see in this a wise provision for economising and preserving from waste a supply of nutrient material—a transitory development of cell-life—thus preventing undue injury resulting to the whole mass of blood by any alteration of its specific gravity.—(*To be continued.*)

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

*To the Editor of the Upper Canada Journal of Medicine.*

DEAR SIR,—The reports which have reached us from Quebec are sufficiently alarming to awaken us in Toronto to a sense of duty towards each other. Would it not be wise then in the authorities to take immediate steps to provide assistance for our sick poor—and permit me to suggest the propriety of departing from the old plan of establishing sheds and urge on the Corporation the better mode of dividing the City into districts, to be placed under the charge of medical officers, giving them power to visit all houses and to enforce the removal of all filth and accumulations of putrescent matter. In recommending the discontinuance of the shed system, I by no means wish to fly in the face of popular prejudice; but for the sake of those who are obliged to resort to them, it is respectfully urged that the dense accumulation of human beings in one apartment, and that too of the most imperfect kind, has always been found to increase the mortality to a fearful extent. If sheds are to be built let them be so constructed as to afford accommodation to not more than four persons in the same division, and at least eight feet square to each bed. Why not inquire of one of our Medical Boards for a good plan?

I am, sir, your's respectfully,

A LAYMAN.