

ceased never rose to the surface. It was some twenty minutes before the body was found when life was pronounced to be extinct. The occurrence took place on the evening of August 16th. His brother is the well-known superintendent of the Government Telegraph and Signal Service. As a business man Mr. Gisborne was well known. He made many warm friends and his loss will be deeply regretted. The management of the business has been, meanwhile, placed in the hands of Mr. R. L. Gibson, who has heretofore been acting as the representative on the road, and has been carried on as usual.

MATRIMONIAL.

Dr. Perrigo, Professor of Surgery in Bishop's College, who is to be married early in November, was entertained at a Dinner given by his professional friends at the Windsor Hotel, on the 29th of October. A number of unique presents was presented to the worthy Doctor whose health was heartily toasted. The chair was occupied by Dr. Kennedy and the vice-chair by Dr. Rodgers.

IODOFORMIUM ABSOLUTUM.

The Chemische Fabrik auf Aktien, Berlin (late E. Schering) has recently taken out a patent for the manufacture of iodoform by electrolysis, and has given the name of Iodoformium Absolutum to the product.

The iodoform thus produced is absolutely pure; it is a mild smelling, silky, delicate, and soft scaly powder of a pure citron yellow color. It can be easily reduced to a fine powder by trituration. It is no higher in price than ordinary iodoform, although iodoform as sent out now is a very different article in its physical properties from what it was a few years ago. There is still room for improvement, and those who are in the habit of using it much will welcome the advent of the new preparation.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

I suppose there is no escape from discussing the issues that arise out of the small-pox epidemic, but I must confess that it is a subject fraught with slight interest for the Montreal medical man. He sees the ordinary means of arresting the plague neglected until it is too late, and then looks on while they are enforced with an enthusiasm worthy of a better cause.

Beyond vaccination and the isolation of patients in fairly well vaccinated districts I don't see that anything worthy of the name has been done to prevent the infection of the whole city. It is infected now, and, beyond the use of the small-pox hospitals for those who cannot be properly looked after at home and the vaccination of those who are not already protected, I do not see that it is worth while wasting money on such measures as isolation and placarding.

Thirty sanitary policemen to isolate two thousand cases of small-pox!

If there were not something extremely pathetic about the feeble eighteenth century notions of sanitatica prevalent in this city one might consider this *the* joke of the season, but the idea of initiating genuine house isolation *in this city* at this stage of the epidemic with anything like twice thirty policemen is to invite the contempt of those who really do know something about the way in which the disease called variola attacks a city.

I have said *this city*, and by that I mean a city of (with its suburbs) 150,000 inhabitants, fully one half of which were not vaccinated effectively when the plague broke out, fully one-quarter of which are unvaccinated now,—probably the majority of these are opposed to and will resist vaccination in the future. I refer to a city the majority of whose inhabitants belong to the same class intellectually and physically that fell victims to cholera in the South of France, in Spain and in Italy—who are indifferent about sanitary matters, who ascribe, with apathetic fatalism, the visitation of the disease to *le bon Dieu*, and do not quarrel with His wise decrees; who rose, like the corresponding class in Barcelona during the cholera, and attacked the Health Office, and who wield just enough political influence to fetter the hands of men who, if left free to act, would conduct themselves like men, and not make the name of our city a term of reproach.

"They do these things better in France." When small-pox reaches other cities, the majority of whose citizens are of a different intellectual calibre, genuine isolation, genuine disinfection, and prompt vaccination are sternly insisted upon. No waiting for a small-pox hospital to be re-opened and furnished; no wasting of valuable time; no bandying of words; and no stupid consulting of the whims and wishes of the patient and his friends.

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