

But, as Alderman Ames and Alderman Laporte have pointed out, under the new charter it is possible for the citizens to give their consent to obtaining a loan to be paid off in ten years or so, by means of an additional tax voluntarily accepted by the property holders as a body. So that now it is proposed that at the referendum in February next the citizens be asked to consent to a loan of \$100,000 for the purpose of building a new hospital; that new hospital to be built upon land given by the city, and when built, to be conducted, not by the municipal officials, but by the combined authorities of the different general hospitals within the city boundaries together with representatives from the City Council.

It is, however, quite possible that the ordinary run of the smaller tax payers in the city may negative any such scheme which when passed would entail the addition of even a cent or two to the taxes, and this more possibly because here in Montreal we have still a large body of those who do not appreciate the benefits of isolation of infectious cases, who neglect to notify, and who in their crass ignorance freely do everything favorable to the dissemination of disease. To these the need of a new infectious hospital will in no sense appeal.

Cruel as it is to the individual it is, we feel, almost a benefit to Montreal that within the last few weeks there has shown itself an epidemic of scarlet fever so considerable that already the wards of the present Civic Hospital are full to overflowing and in certain parts of the city the schools have had to be closed. These patients cannot, in December, be properly lodged and attended to in the present building and the danger to which the patients are subjected and the further danger and misery that is entailed by the fact that other patients have to be isolated and kept at home, should rouse everyone in Montreal to realize the absolute urgency of the case. We trust that our readers in their visits to various homes throughout the city in dealing with all sorts and conditions of men, will bring to those men and women a realization of the facts of the case and will so influence public opinion that in February next the passage of the consent to a new loan for a new hospital be secured by an overwhelming majority.

#### NEW BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED AND NOTED.

*Government Printing Office, Washington.*

Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, U.S. Army. Second Series, Vol. V. 1900.

*Smithsonian Institution.*

Transactions of the American Surgical Association. Vol. XVIII. 1900.

*William Wood & Co., New York.*

Manual of Diseases of the Eye for Students and General Practitioners. By Charles H. May, M.D. 1900.