

*Riddell: An Eighteenth Century Quack in French Canada.*

of ale; drink half a pint every six hours, new-milk-warm. It has cured many. Tried."

Samuel Thomson, the botanical physician, prescribes a poultice of boiled red clover heads. Some of his followers used blood root (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) made into a salve with beef's gall. All these are harmless, and if they did not cure they did no harm.

The notorious empiric, St. John Long, in the early part of the last century, used a "corrosive, inflammatory, and dangerous liquid" (apparently arsenous acid solution) as a wash; he cured many and killed some.

Less than fifty years ago a well known medical practitioner in this Province acquired fame by his arsenical plasters for cancer, and many others have advanced other remedies, equally efficacious or equally inefficacious. In a benign tumor, or where imagination can effect a cure, a cure is effected; elsewhere the effect is nil or worse.

It must be said that our quack Phlem displayed more judgment than the qualified surgeon Boispineau in opening up the tumor and removing the necrosed bone of Grenier's jaw rather than allow it to remain as Boispineau advised.

OSGOODE HALL.