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TALES OF THE TOWN.

OF THE THREE learned professions—law, medicine and the church—it appears to me that the latter has reaped the least benefit from the smallpox scourge. For a week or so the disciples of Esculapius had everything their own way, and rumor has it that the nimble penny found its way to their pockets with lightning velocity. And all this notwithstanding the flaming notices which appeared in the papers that vaccination would be like the consolation from on high—without money and without price. However, a fee of \$2.50 was charged, presumably as a guarantee of good faith. Then the engines of the law were placed in motion, with the result that the atmosphere in the immediate vicinity of Bastion square is charged with injunctions and other orders of court. This merely goes to show that the weather is chilly indeed when the Blackstonian disciple gets left. In the midst of all this it would transpire that the only consolation the church has derived from the epidemic is being able to point to it as a Divine visitation; but the rev. gentleman who accepts this theory has not explained how it is that nearly all the smallpox cases were found in the immediate neighborhood of the churches on Douglas street and Pandora avenue. However, I will have a few words to say on this subject further on.

To begin with, I would ask, will some of the great medical authorities of Victoria kindly tell the public why they made so much objection to the druggists selling vaccine points to the public and not keeping them solely for the medical "profession?" I admit that it certainly did deprive the sawbones of a little revenue, but any doctor who would do such a low, mean trick should be boycotted at once. Many persons object to going to doctors for vaccination when they know that nearly every medical man in town has been attending smallpox patients; and they have no proof that these doctors exercised

even common precautions. Judging from recent developments, medical men do not know everything that is worth knowing about smallpox. In fact, I heard a doctor the other night saying that the profession had not a monopoly of common sense even. Perhaps he was right.

It seems curious that the most important science of the world should rest on a basis which is worse than uncertain. In the practice of medicine there is considerably more mere speculation and supposition than many people imagine, and it is only when the doctors employ simple means that they succeed. I exclude surgery from the question, as where the knife is employed different conditions exist, although some claim that the use of the knife is necessitated by the lack of knowledge in the therapeutic department.

I cannot but conclude, from the conduct of almost every doctor with whom I have come in contact, that the profession of medicine is followed more for money than for love of the science. Doctors certainly are not expected to practice for love, but if they are going to charge enormous prices for their services, it seems unjust that they should be protected by laws such as we have here. Allopathy and homoeopathy are in constant conflict, each claiming the infallibility which the public sorrowfully holds to be foreign to both. Considering the attitude and actions of our own medical men, the question seems to be not "what will cure a person," but "how to make the most money out of a patient." So that, by fencing round the medical men with laws, the Government is simply protecting a gigantic monopoly, and with that monopoly the evils attendant on such a condition of affairs.

I have long ceased to look for any common sense in high places, but it certainly does seem to me that any official, high or low, who in any way aids any set of men to keep all useful

knowledge out of sight, or who helps those men to keep the public constantly contributing for the alleviation of that which, but for the doctors' avarice, could be cured at once, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and should be punished accordingly.

To my mind, the only remedy for this is to educate the youth of our land, and to instil into their unfolding intellects that fine sense of honor which is conspicuous by its absence from those who thrive on the ignorance of others. In no other way can reform, in the most beneficial way, come into the world. What we want is a growth of men and women too proud to descend to the dirty tricks and despicable actions so lamentably common among the public men of to-day. We want men and women who consider that the transgression of the slightest part of the code of honor is a worse crime against humanity than stealing; who can comprehend the purpose for which the manifestation of life has taken place, and who will comprehend that the injury of the slightest particle of the race is an injury to the whole race.

There is much discontent among the men engaged to watch quarantined houses because they will have to remain unpaid until every bill in connection with this smallpox affair has been sent in. The men who took these situations are not millionaires, and it shows considerable lack of judgment on the part of the mayor in refusing to advance them duly earned money, especially when some, if not all, of them, have to either borrow enough to keep body and soul together, or go hungry and without a place to sleep.

As a matter of fact there is something radically wrong about the present system of school vacations. During the suspension of mental application the children of the public schools are like young colts turned out to pasture, and there is with them an immense amount of leakage, which the teacher has to supply over again at the ensuing

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