

called the Russian sickness. It was sudden in its onset, very painful while it lasted, but generally of short duration, and was sufficiently fatal, to more than double the ordinary death rate of the cities which it visited. In Italy, where it generally arrives in about a week after its appearance in Russia, it received the title of influenza, owing to the mysterious manner in which it was transmitted, apparently by the air. The French have given it the most suggestive title, that of "la grippe," on account of the seizing or squeezing character of the pain which accompanies it. It travelled steadily westward at the rate of about four hundred miles a day, until the whole of Europe was affected, and then it reached the British Isles. About the middle of December it was observed in mid-Atlantic, attacking the passengers on the ocean steamers. About the 27th December it reached Halifax, and a day later New York, and a few hours later Montreal, and so on, steadily westward. It was thought that as soon as the mild, slushy weather should change to biting frost the force of the disease would be checked, but this has not been the case. Although we have had several days of intense cold in Montreal, on two occasions since it first made its appearance, the number of cases continued about the same. That it is an epidemic disease there seems to be no doubt whatever, some observers finding a resemblance between it and cerebral spinal meningitis. The intense pain in the head and back, causing the movement of the eyes to be dreaded, bears this opinion out. Others have compared it to rheumatism, on account of the intense pain in the joints and muscles of the limbs. It frequently ends up with the symptoms of a severe cold, and leaves the patient prostrated far beyond what might be expected from the short duration of the fever. The favorite method of treatment has been to clean out the bowels with calomel and salines, or cathartics; then to relieve the fever with ten grain doses of

antipyrin, antifebrin or phenacetin, and as soon as that has been done to give five grains of quinine three times a day until tinitus aurium begins. As far as we can learn, no one has died from the disease, but as many have been treating themselves with fifteen-grain doses of antipyrin several times a day, it is possible that some have died from the treatment. The great increase in the death rate, however, has been mostly due to the complications of bronchitis and pneumonia—chiefly the latter—one of our confreres having fifteen cases of pneumonia in his private practice at the same time. Owing to the weak condition in which the influenza leaves the heart, the pneumonia has been tolerably fatal. One peculiarity about "The Grip," as it is called here, is that it is no respecter of persons; kings and peasants, doctors and patients, are alike attacked. In fact, it seems to have a preference for the wealthy, the first to succumb in this city being the residents of the upper parts of the town—the upper ten thousand, so to speak. Many of the leading physicians have been incapacitated for duty during several weeks, while some were even reported to be dead.

STATE CONTROL OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

At the opening at McGill College of the winter session it fell to the lot of the popular Professor of Clinical Medicine, Dr. "Dick" McDonnell, to deliver the introductory lecture. The principal part of the discourse was devoted to a criticism of the Provincial Medical Board, which is the governing body of the profession. On some points we quite agree with him; for instance, when he points out that advertising quacks can come from a foreign country and start practice here, duping and swindling the public in the most barefaced manner without the authorities saying a word to them, and yet the young practitioner, who is supposed to be protected by the college, is forbidden by etiquette to even