

REPORT.

Recognising the great mortality caused by Diphtheria, and its continued existence in this Province, the Medical Society of Nova Scotia, as the representative of the regular profession of medicine, in the absence of any body legally authorized to enforce sanitary measures, deeming it to be its duty to furnish such recommendations as are desirable and necessary for the conservation of the public health, upon due consideration, by an unanimous vote passed at its Annual Session held in the City of Halifax, June 19th, 1878, appointed, and empowered a committee of its body to prepare, and furnish for the guidance of the Provincial Government, and of the general public, a special report, which would convey an authoritative expression of the society's opinion, as to the direct contagiousness of Diphtheria, and of the measures which it recommends for adoption, in order to mitigate the severity, and if possible limit the extension, of the disease.

In furtherance of this object, after due consideration upon many questions relating to the natural history, propagation, and treatment of Diphtheria, having also taken a comprehensive review of the sanitary measures which may modify or arrest its spread, the committee prepared and now submit the subjoined report:—

Diphtheria is like smallpox, a contagious disease, and is propagated by the contact of healthy persons with those who are affected. The contagion of diphtheria, like that of small pox, attaches itself to clothing, bedding, furniture, and other articles, rendering them capable of conveying the disease.

Contagiousness.

It may be communicated also by attendants, or visitors who neglect taking the necessary precautions for the purification of their clothing or persons after contact with the disease.

Means of conveyance.

It must be remembered also that persons who have had diphtheria, may during their convalescence communicate the disease to those who are in health.

Danger from convalescents.