its general aspect presents a contradiction; inasmuch as among the cases of persons exposed to the contagion those who do not contract the disease are at least as many as those who do. What is needed, then, is an investigation into the fundamental conditions of These condithis communicability. tions were considered under two heads. Effective transmission of the (1.)typhoid bacillus through the medium of decomposing animal or vegetable This means of communicamatter. bility is well established. The cases on record in which persons contracted the disease from cesspools, sewers, drains, dung-heaps, wet-manured soils, drinking water, bed clothing, &c., contaminated by the foecal discharges of patients are too numerous and too well known to mention. Nurtured for a certain length of time in this medium the bacillus may be transmitted to the body so as to produce fever in two ways: (1) it remains suspended in and may be conveyed by water used for drinking purposes; (2) it may be suspended in the atmosphere and may reach the blood by means of the inspired air. This condition of contagion has been found at the basis of nearly all cases of transmission of the disease that have been investigated. (2.) Communicability by means of direct emanation from the body and exhaled air. Dr. Fraser maintained and cited several cases in support of the view that this means of communication is only apparent. From all cases carefully investigated the following facts have been observed :- Attendants on the sick do not contract the disease unless they are also exposed to the decomposing excrements of the patient or to the continuing influence to which the patients' sickness is due; the garments worn by the patient and the bed-clothing do not communicate the disease to others unless they are defiled by his dejecta ; persons may be in close relation to the patient without contracting the dis-

ease, while others who have had no direct communication with him are frequently attacked. The conclusion from a vast number of such observations seems to be that no communication of the fever takes place by means of direct emanations from the surface of the body or from exhaled air but only by means of emanations from the medium of decomposing animal or vegetable matter. Then the Doctor pointed out the support given to this conclusion by modern bacteriological The typhoid bacillus when research. first discharged is slothful and not After it has remained in virulent. the stool for about 12 hours a great change takes place in its form and motions. It becomes very active and This observation corresvirulent. ponds well with the fact so frequently observed in hospitals that persons may be exposed to recent typhoid stools and fail to contract the disease, but are liable to attack if the stool has stood for over 12 hours. From the most recent bacteriological investigations we are furnished with the probable scientific principle underlying the communicability of typhoid fever, namely, that the typhoid bacillus is of such a nature that it is not capable of producing enteric fever until it is nurtured for a certain length of time in decomposing animal or vegetable It is not directly but inmatter. directly communicable. Eliminate the possibility of the disease being transmitted through the medium of decomposing matter and there is no danger of communication.

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Correspondence.

DEAR M.,—You will recollect that in 1887, the Jubilee year, one million dollars were presented to the city of Montreal by Lord Mountstephen and Sir Donald A. Smith for the purpose of establishing a public hospital, to be called the Victoria Hospital. This