

THE CHOLERA IN THE UNITED STATES.

This pestilence is evidently making steady advances over the country. It appears to have been introduced into New Orleans about the latter part of May, by a German Emigrant vessel, and after committing some ravages in that city, it advanced up the Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee Rivers, spreading to the towns on their banks. Memphis, Tenn., has suffered rather severely; the deaths from the epidemic in that city on the 22nd of June numbering 53. We hear of it prevailing also at Nashville, Gallatin, and other towns in Tennessee. Advancing up the Ohio River, its prevalence is announced in Evansville, Indiana, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Wheeling, W. Va. From Memphis it appears to have also detected eastward, still following, as usual, the main lines of travel. Then it is reported to have appeared in Washington, D.C., thus leaping from the valley of the Ohio to that of the Potomac, skipping over the intervening towns. These may hereafter suffer or escape entirely as has so often occurred in the history of this epidemic.

The epidemic appears from the reports received to be less fatal and to attack a smaller proportion of the population than at its previous visitations.

At the South it has been far more fatal, according to all the reports, to the coloured than to the white population.

DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM.

The following case is reported in the Am. Practitioner for June, 1873:—

Chloroform was administered in a napkin to a youth aged 12, for the extraction of a tooth. Before coming under its influence he vomited. After nausea had subsided he was again slowly brought under the influence of chloroform, and complaining of the pain given by the extraction of one of the roots of the tooth, a little more of the anæsthetic was administered. Simultaneously with the extraction of the remainder of the tooth, the pulse flickered and a sudden pallor came over his face. All efforts at resuscitation were in vain. The amount of chloroform (Squibb's) used, including that which was inhaled prior to the vomiting, was about half an ounce. An autopsy does not appear to have been made.

DEATH DURING ANÆSTHESIA.

Dr. Cabot reported to the Boston Soc. for Med. Improvement (Feb. 24, 1873), a case showing what he considered the only danger in the use of ether as an anæsthetic, and a danger common to all anæsthetics.

The patient, an old man, weak, but not excessively so, had undergone an operation which lasted three-quarters of an hour. He was removed from the operating room, and the usual orders to water him were given. Five hours afterwards he had a violent attack of dyspnoea, and died. Food was found in one of the bronchial tubes.

He also referred to a similar case which had occurred some time ago. A fat woman, while lying on her back, under ether, vomited, and some of the vomitus, getting into the trachea, killed her.—Boston Med. and surg. Journ. May 29, 1873.

DRINKING FOUNTAINS.

It is highly gratifying to learn that the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association, which has just held its fourteenth anniversary, is in a very flourishing condition. During the past year the expenditure amounted to nearly 3000 pounds, and the financial year closed with a balance in hand of over 600 pounds. Up to the present time more than 300 troughs and fountains have been erected by the Association, and the boon thus conferred upon men and animals is incalculable. The opportunity of water-drinking thus offered to the metropolitan populations is apparently not lost upon them, for the report stated that as many as 8000 persons had drunk at one fountain in a single day, and that the water-rate payable by a single trough or fountain was in some cases as much as 30 pounds per annum. The latter fact brings the value of water before our eyes in a rather startling manner, and one cannot but wonder that this grimest of cities, densely over-populated as it is, should retain its high standard of healthiness notwithstanding the great obstacle to cleanliness which is entailed by the high price of water. The Association, in its report, ventures to hope that it has done good work in lessening drunkenness, and it puts forward the suggestion that water-drinking and alcohol drinking bear an inverse proportion to each other. The yearly increasing revenues derived from the Board of Excise seem, however, entirely to negative such a supposition.—[Lancet.

MEDICAL NEWS.

A meeting was held at Birmingham lately, chiefly attended by ladies, for the purpose of forming an association for promoting the admission of women into the medical profession.

The Law Magazine states that the crime of murder is considerably on the increase in Scotland, one judge at Glasgow having on a late occasion to try no less than six cases of murder alone. Our contemporary is "afraid that the crime is only too likely to increase under the present system of no punishment, or uncertainty of punishment, which is much the same thing."

Last Sunday morning, at St. George's Hospital, a night nurse by mistake injected the vagina of a patient with strong carbolic acid. A solution of one part in forty of water had been ordered. The cries of the patient prevented the nurse completing the injection, but sufficient was used to produce a painful caustic action on the vulva, thighs, and nates. We had hoped that the recent fatal result at St. George's Hospital of the careless use of carbolic acid would prove effectual in preventing the repetition of such blunders. This makes, to our knowledge, the third accident at St. George's Hospital with carbolic acid. Have the night nurses of that institution neither wits nor noses?—Lancet.

The annual meeting of the Irish Medical Association took place on Monday, the 2nd inst., the chair being filled by Dr. Hynes, president. The report of the Council referred, amongst other things, to the need of increased pay to the medical attendants of the Royal Irish Constabulary, the objections to the new Army Medical Warrant, and to Mr. Headlam's Bill, which it was considered required amendment before it should receive support. Resolutions were agreed to relative to an application to Ireland of the Public Health Act, and of sympathy with the militia surgeons who have been injured by the recent Army Regulation Act.

The case of the Fenian convict Redding, who was concerned in the murder of constable Brett at Manchester, came before the Court of Queen's Bench the other day. He accused the medical officers of Chatham and Millbank of cruelty, inasmuch as when suffering from incipient paralysis he was treated as a malingeringer. To test the genuineness of his "symptoms," he was subjected to galvanism, he had a hot poker applied to the inner aspect of the femur, and a quill was passed gently along the soles of his feet. His complaint that these operations caused him severe pain convinced the surgeons that their suspicions of malingering were justified, and he was treated accordingly. On the expiry of his term of imprisonment he applied for a criminal information against the surgeons for cruelty, and a rule nisi was obtained. The Attorney-General showed cause against the rule on Wednesday, the 28th ult., and Thursday, and the Judges decreed that it ought to be discharged. Mr. Justice Blackburn said that Redding had greatly exaggerated his treatment, and Mr. Justice Quain expressed himself still more strongly. In discharging the rule, the Court gave costs against Redding.

The following letter is one of that kind which "speaks for itself." We are glad to note another instance of a surgeon being officially rewarded:—

Superintendent's Office, Auckland, 3rd Feb., 1873.
Sir,—The Provincial Government desire to testify their appreciation of the zeal and attention displayed by you in your capacity as provincial surgeon, during the recent visitation of small-pox in Auckland.

It is due to you to express their opinion that the speedy and effectual extinction of that terrible disease was mainly owing to your unceasing efforts for the public welfare; efforts that must have involved very great self-sacrifice throughout the continuance of the epidemic. I have much pleasure in handing you the enclosed cheque for 100 pounds awarded by the Government in recognition of your services.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant.

THOMAS R. GILLIES, Superintendent.
Thomas Moore Philson, Esq., M.D., Provincial surgeon, Auckland.

PROSPECTUS.

THE CANADIAN

MEDICAL TIMES.

A NEW WEEKLY JOURNAL,

DEVOTED TO PRACTICAL MEDICINE, SURGERY, OBSTETRICS, THERAPEUTICS, AND THE COLLEGERAL SCIENCES, MEDICAL POLITICS, ETHICS, NEWS, AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Undersigned being about to enter on the publication of a new Medical Journal in Canada, earnestly solicits the co-operation and support of the profession in his undertaking.

The want of a more frequent means of communication between the members of this well-educated and literary body has been long felt; since monthly publications such as alone have been hitherto attempted in this country, do not at times fully serve the requirements of the controversies and pieces of correspondence which spring up. It necessarily diminishes the interest of a correspondence to have to wait a month for a reply and another month for a rejoinder; and it is in consequence of this drawback, no doubt, that many important or interesting points are not more fully debated in the monthly medical journals.

THE CANADIAN MEDICAL TIMES, appearing weekly, will serve as a vehicle for correspondence on all points of purely professional interest. It is also intended to furnish domestic and foreign medical news, the domestic intelligence having reference more particularly to the proceedings of city and county Medical Societies, Colleges and University classes, public and professional appointments, the outbreak and spread of epidemics, the introduction of sanitary improvements, etc. Many interesting items of this nature, it is hoped, will be contributed by gentlemen in their respective localities.

If the interest of a correspondence can be maintained and its freshness preserved by a weekly publication, it must be yet more valuable to have weekly notices instead of monthly ones of the advances which are continuously being made in the medical art. Obviously the sooner a medical practitioner hears of an improvement the sooner he can put it in practice, and the sooner will his patients reap the benefit. In this manner, the value of a weekly over a monthly or semi-annual medical journal may sometimes prove inestimable. Medical papers and clinical lectures, in abstract form or in extenso, will regularly appear and constitute a considerable portion of the new journal. In this way it is intended to furnish the cream of medical literature in all departments, so that a subscriber may depend upon its pages as including almost every notice of practical value contained in other journals.

Original articles on medical subjects will appear in its pages. The growth of medical literature in Canada of late years encourages the hope that this department will be copiously supplied. Notices of cases have been kindly promised, and an invitation to contribute is hereby extended to others who may have papers for publication. If the profession would encourage the establishment of a worthy representative medical journalism in Canada, its members should feel that upon themselves rests the onus of aiding in the growth of a national professional literature.

In order to gain a wide-spread circulation for the new journal, the publisher has determined on making it as cheap as possible. It will appear in the form of a quarto newspaper of twenty-four wide columns, containing a large quantity of reading matter, and be issued weekly at the low price of Two Dollars per annum. For cheapness this will go beyond anything as yet attempted in a medical journal in Canada.

It will be the aim of the editor to make it at once an interesting, practical, and useful journal, indispensable to the Canadian practitioner. It will be the aim, further, to make the MEDICAL TIMES the organ of the profession in Canada, as its columns will be freely open to the discussion of any professional matter, whether of medical politics, ethics, or of questions in practice.

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