

of isolation, in the scientific sense, is entirely ignored. We do not believe that it was carried out. Shortly after this general infection of the Hotel Dieu it was not only considered inexpedient to admit any more patients, but it was also decided to close the institution and to send to their homes those who had previously been under treatment. The result of this determination upon the part of the Hotel Dieu authorities may easily be anticipated; each patient discharged from the Hospital—all impregnated as it was with small-pox contagion—formed a local infecting centre for the propagation of the disease. Had the management of the Hospital put their heads together to determine in what way they could most expeditiously and most thoroughly spread variola throughout this city, they could hardly have hit upon a more effective plan. Instead of vaccinating and quarantining the whole institution they deliberately allowed to go by default the only chance that was left of preventing the further spread of the disease.

It would almost seem as if the enquiry into the origin of the epidemic has served the purpose of averting criticism from the Civic Government. Why was there no permanent small-pox hospital ready for the reception of such patients as Longley and Shattuck? Why was no public vaccination done for a year and a half before the outbreak? Why should there have been any difficulty in getting the Civic Hospital opened?

And the answer to these questions is, that the chief officials of the Sanitary Department were grossly incompetent to deal with the matter of the public health, and because our city council, actuated by petty notions of false economy, refused the necessary funds. Nor, later on, did they grasp the situation, but pallied and procrastinated until the golden opportunity was lost forever.

Montreal has had a bitter experience, and it remains to be seen whether in the future a better record will be shown. Let us hope, with Dr. Hingston, "that it will never again happen in the history of the city that a patient stricken with small-pox will be driven round from pillar to post in the vain search of some place where he can be treated and cared for without endangering the public safety."

#### BOVINE-VACCINE POINTS.

Messrs. John Wyeth & Brother, of Philadelphia, the well-known pharmacists, have quite re-

cently established a vaccine farm in Chester County, a short distance from that city. The land is undulating, well adapted to grazing, and contains several hundred acres, well watered and wooded. The buildings are all arranged on the latest scientific principles, and the animals and the inoculations have been placed under the immediate charge of Dr. W. L. Zuill, Professor in the Veterinary Department of the University of Pennsylvania. The virus with which the Messrs. Wyeth have started their inoculations was obtained from the Vaccine Bureau, under the auspices of the Belgian Government, in the City of Brussels. The high standing which the firm of John Wyeth & Brother have with the profession in the Dominion of Canada will at once commend to them the vaccine which they produce. The Davis & Lawrence Co. of Montreal are the agents for Canada.

We observe that Dr. Piffard has retired from his editorial connection with the *Journal of Cutaneous and Venereal Diseases*. The Journal will be continued under the sole editorial charge of Dr. P. A. Morrow. We may remind our readers that this is the only publication in the English language devoted to Skin and Venereal Diseases, and during the three years of its existence it has won for itself a high reputation for scientific excellence as well as practical utility. In addition to presenting all that is new and valuable in these special departments, the colored lithographs and wood engravings with which the original articles are illustrated are worth more than the price of subscription.

Judging from the handsome appearance of the January number, which is enriched by an admirable chromo-lithograph and a number of well-executed woodcuts, and the eminently practical character of its contents, this high standard will be maintained in the future.

#### LACTOPEPTINE.

We have used this article extensively for some years in cases of indigestion, and can recommend it as a very valuable remedy. Being a compound of the five active agents which are contained in the process of digestion, it cannot fail to aid the system in preparing the food for assimilation. It is an invaluable remedy in the summer diarrhoea of