

# THE CANADA LANCET.

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Communications solicited on all Medical and Scientific subjects, and also Reports of Cases occurring in practice. Advertisements inserted on the most liberal terms. All Letters and Communications to be addressed to the "Editor Canada Lancet," Toronto.

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## SCIENCE VERSUS TRADE.

We continue to receive regularly, the *Revista Medico-Quirurgica*, an excellent semi-monthly periodical, published in Buenos Aires, S. A., for which we tender its talented conductors our warmest thanks, with the assurance that we never fail to peruse, with earnest attention, its interesting and instructive contents, and did our space permit, we should present our readers more copious extracts than we hitherto have appropriated. In the number for Sept., we have read, with not unmingled gratification, the correspondence of Dr. Dupont, of Buenos Aires, under date 11th August, 1878, in which he gives a succinct summary of the proceedings of the *Universal Exposition* then in progress in Paris. As a matter of course Dr. Dupont's observations are mainly devoted to the medical department of the exposition. We commend to our readers, the following rather caustic allusions to some of the exploitations of certain members of our fraternity, merely premising that it is not outside the range of probability, that similar indiscretions are occasionally fallen into, in the medical assemblages of this country. Dr. Dupont writes thus: "All the sessions have passed in accordance with the announcements. A few members seemed to have come solely for their own benefit, or for that of others, to read their reclamatory productions, whether for the greater glory of such or such a one, or in favour of the pecuniary interests of some other aspirant to notoriety, or such and such a laudable enterprise.

In the Thursday session, the true lovers of science itself, and not of science as the basis of mere trade, more or less legitimate, were constrained to listen to an English member of the Congress giving a long

and bombastic lecture on the *salicylates*, as the best and only reliable disinfectant; not, however the *salicylates* in general, of commerce, but on those which a certain English company, (which I shall take care not to name) were pushing into notice. If one must believe in this worthy son of positive and egotistic Albion, there can be neither health nor hygiene outside the use of the *salicylates* of his extolled company. Many of the members were surprised that French amiability and courtesy towards strangers, prevented the president from prohibiting this puffing exhibition. Having however tolerated it, there was a unanimous silent determination to pass the subject unheeded."

We cannot refrain from endorsing the decision, in the above instance, of the Paris medical congress, and we would strongly recommend to all our Canadian societies, to pursue a similar course, whenever it may appear to be the purpose of the reader of a paper, to advertise his own merits and singular achievements, rather than to bring under notice original and practically valuable facts, and we would here take the liberty of observing, that the reader should be careful as to the actuality of his adduced facts. Cullen has said, with too much truthfulness, "there are more false facts than false theories."

## CEREBRAL LOCALIZATION.

Broca was among the first to investigate the subject of how far the brain exercises an influence on the motions of animals, and the exact location whence the power exerted over the various faculties was derived. One of the facts demonstrated was that when a person is deprived of the faculty of speech by a stroke of apoplexy, there invariably exists a lesion at a certain spot in the brain, viz., in the anterior region and on the posterior side of the third frontal convolution to the left. This led to the conclusion that the seat of the faculty of speech in man was located at this point, and from this has been inferred a special place for every intellectual action.

The method pursued is to remove part of the skull of an animal, then to apply electric wires to different parts of the brain thus laid bare, and observe the motions produced. No response is received from certain points, so that it was inferred that it is not the whole brain that acts upon the