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**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**

Communications and reports solicited. Correspondents must accompany letters, if intended to be printed anonymously, with their proper signature, as a guarantee of good faith.

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**REMITTANCES.**

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A new style of physicians' pocket cases has been introduced in New York and other American cities. The peculiarity consists in their being furnished with an accurately graduated minim pipette, which can be dipped into each of the vials, thus materially facilitating the administration of small doses of powerful medicines. Obstetrical cases have been similarly fitted with a measuring pipette and vials for fluid extracts of ergot and *venetrum viride*, and denarcotized tincture of opium. These minim pipettes should be very handy, we would presume, for other purposes than those directly contemplated—notably in testing diabetic urine and in other chemical reactions undertaken by the physician.

There is a keen sarcasm the remark of M. Sarazin that in hospitals and public buildings the ventilation is worst where most money has been spent upon it. This distinguished French authority lays it down that the best method of ventilating a hospital—and for that matter a private dwelling—is to have large windows extending from the floor to the ceiling, and when the weather permits to keep them freely open. A modification might be introduced into private houses in having narrow windows with jalousie shutters in lieu of glass extending from floor to ceiling. It will be discovered by giving a little thought to the principle at the bottom of this simple system, that it provides for a complete removal of all vitiated air and the replacement of the same with the fresh atmosphere of the exterior. The plan recommended by M. Sarazin is worthy the attention of architects engaged in the construction of public buildings. In effect this plan is carried out in the construction of houses in the tropics, where indeed it has been found to be the only effective method of keeping a room cool and pleasant in such hot climates.

In British India it is the custom for civil surgeons to give their services on a system of contract at so much per week, month, or year. The *Indian Medical Gazette* scouts a proposition to supersede this time-honoured plan by a scale of fees per visit arranged according to salaries. "There seems to be (it says) but one step between this sort of thing and the shop—the lowest form

of medical practice. Nothing (it considers) would more effectually smother the nice feeling which ought to exist between a doctor and his patient. A medical man would even feel a delicacy in paying a second visit to a sick person, however necessary he might consider it, unless specially sent for." How custom modifies our notions and susceptibilities. Here and in most other countries the system of fees per visit is naturalized, patients and practitioners are reconciled to it, and it would be very difficult to change it for the Indian plan, which, no doubt, has certain advantages to recommend it. Medical men would like to get rid of the trouble of book-keeping, and would also like to be saved from any suspicion of being over-attentive for the sake of the fees; but on the other hand, in certain cases the system of contract would permit some persons to be too exacting, and inconsistent demands might be made on a practitioner's valuable time. Very likely the system, however applicable among the official population in British India, would break down on trial in larger communities.

**PRECOCIOUS DENTITION.**

We read in *L'Union Medicale du Canada*, October:—Dr. C. M. Filiatrault, of this city, (Montreal) informs us that during the past month he attended the accouchement of a woman who brought into the world a child whose two inferior incisors were pierced through at the moment of birth. It was a masculine child and well formed. It is known that Louis XIV. was also provided with two teeth at the time of birth.

**THE PRICE OF IODINE.**

Our French-Canadian contemporary, *L'Union Medicale du Canada*, publishes from a French source some information relative to the causes at work affecting the price of iodine and its compounds. It seems that in the manufacture of certain violet and green colours iodine until lately has been used. The production of iodine is very much limited, being about 100,000 to 130,000 kilogrammes for the whole world; and in the fabrication of colours alone in 1871 there were consumed more than 50,000 kilogrammes. On the other hand, iodine is a medicine very much employed, and its consumption for medicinal uses increases daily; so that a kilogramme of iodine, which in 1862 was worth twenty francs, has reached during the past year to the price of one hundred francs. This increase of price was an inducement to fraud, and in consequence the adulteration of iodides has become common enough. Now, thanks to M. Ch. Lauth, a method has been discovered which dispenses entirely with iodine in the fabrication of colouring matters derived from coal-tar, and the price of iodine has rapidly fallen. From one hundred francs, which it was worth in 1872, it has now actually come down to fifty francs.

**A. MEDICAL GRIEVANCE.**

Medical grievances are universal. They exist even in France. *Le Lyon Medical* says:—The doctors of the canton of Argovie have resolved at a general meeting to refuse to treat the sick poor

who are on the charge of the parishes until the authorities consent to fix a reasonable scale of fees. The fees at present paid were fixed in 1804, and according to this scale the doctor who goes to see a patient at a distance of three-quarters of a league receives a recompense of seventy centimes. The doctors pointed out at their meeting that a porter or the bearer of a message would get a franc for going the same distance. Here is an example which French medical men should meditate upon. As for ourselves, we fully indorse the view formulated in these terms by the learned chief-editor of *La France Medicale*: "An association which would have for its object to increase our honoraria in practice and in the case of the government and corporations, who impose upon us their ridiculous tariffs, would confer upon our profession a prestige and a service which all the mutual benefit societies are incapable of performing."

Let us wish all success to the efforts of the Argovians and of the gallant French doctors who are still under the yoke of municipal administrations and petty communes. English parish doctors, working for wretched pay, must also lend them their sympathy. A fellow feeling no doubt dictated the interest of copying the above extract, where we find it, in our French-Canadian contemporary, *L'Union Medicale*, from whose pages we have translated it.

The operation of the Medical Act in Ontario is attracting much attention beyond the boundaries of this province. A Montreal professor included in his opening address to the students some observations relative to the working of the law and the satisfactory manner in which it is dissipating the claims of the homoeopaths. We refer now to the remarks of Dr. Tr nholme, of Bishop's College, which we may subsequently present to our readers. At present we desire to give place to the following remarks occurring editorially in the *Philadelphia Medical Times*, which show that the results are held to justify the propriety of the means employed, though it is due to the profession in Ontario to say that the legal alliance with sectaries has been viewed with a full share of reluctance. Our contemporary says:—

"As most of our readers no doubt know, some years since there was inaugurated by law in the province of Ontario, Canada, a general medical board or council, before which all persons desirous of practising medicine in the province had to appear and undergo an examination. This licensing board has always reminded us of Barnum's happy family, since upon it regulars, homoeopaths, and eclectics sit in sweet accord. Strict written and oral examinations have been enforced by this board, the candidate passing first upon those branches supposedly common to the three schools, and then being examined in therapeutics according to his wishes as to his future practice.

"However strange and repulsive this mixture of Jew and Gentile, of science and impudence of insanity, may appear, the process prescribed by the law really seems to have wrought great good. The compulsory study of a scientific groundwork, the