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SUPPORT OF HOSPITALS.

In a community like ours, begging for charitable and other purposes seems to have no end. One reason for this seeming condition is the comparative smallness of the English speaking population, making it appear as though the demand on their purses was continuous. The lack of system in the matter of collections is also a great factor in the seeming continuity.

As a matter of fact, Montreal does not give as well in proportion to its wealth as most of the small places of the country, which are not even dignified by the name of city. Very many of our grand gifts to charity, etc., are the work of individuals who are blessed with generosity in addition to an abundance of this world's goods. Such a state of affairs is a deplorable one, and we should rouse ourselves to remedy the evil. In regard to hospitals, people, fortunately for themselves, are beginning to see their

usefulness and are ready and eager to avail themselves of their advantages in time of need, in the great majority of cases claiming the privilege on the grounds of their having subscribed (usually a sum in cents) towards the hospital's support. The deduction from this is, that the growing apathy evinced in time of health, and the failure to support such institutions according to our ability, leads ultimately to a loss of independence, and a condition of general moral debility.

The remedies for this disease are systematic collection and systematic giving, be it great or little, consistent with our capacity. Systematic collection is hard to accomplish where small sums are concerned, as the cost is too great; it therefore behoves the giver to be his own collector, and see that the hospital gets the money without cost or labor. Systematic giving is a matter resting entirely with ourselves, and if religiously followed out would obviate the necessity for special and irregular appeals for aid, as well as promote greater efficiency in the work of hospitals, as it would give them an assured income.

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