

CANADA

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THE ADVENT OF SMALLPOX.

For the past four or five years the city of Montreal has been entirely free from smallpox, after having been for a long time a prey to that dreaded epidemic disease. This is a fact upon which we have had good reason to congratulate ourselves. But the history of smallpox shows that it comes and goes in waves. It comes, it spreads, becomes widely epidemic, lasts thus for a variable period, and, when it has exhausted all the available material, gradually subsides. Then follows an intermission during which nothing is heard of it, and gradually a sense of security is established and people begin to hope that the terrible experiences of former visitations will never be reenacted. It is during these temporary lulls that the material upon which smallpox feeds is developed. That is to say, vaccination of children is neglected, and by the time an outbreak occurs many are ready to receive the poison and propagate it to any extent. As we are certainly threatened with the recurrence of smallpox in Montreal, it becomes the duty of the hour to urge the importance of immediate vaccination upon all physicians within the limits of their own *clientele* and upon the Board of Health to redouble their exertions in this direction. On this occasion the disease has been imported from Chicago, where it has greatly prevailed during the winter. About four weeks ago two railway employés from that city arrived here, within a few days of each other, affected with smallpox. One of these was received at the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital, the other was treated by his own physician at his private house. Both cases communicated the disease to others. From the hospital case, two