

Correspondence.

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SMALL-POX HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of the Public Health Magazine :—

DEAR SIR,—In your September number, you had a few most timely remarks on the above question in your really useful publication. Allow the writer to make a few further remarks on the same subject. There can be no question as to the great importance and absolute necessity for the erection of a small-pox hospital, perfectly isolated, at least as far as that is possible, where those affected with this loathsome and infectious disease may be properly treated without the fear of coming in contact with others.

In our present hospitals, viz : the Hotel Dieu and Montreal General Hospital, it is almost impossible to prevent contagion spreading among the patients being treated for other diseases.

Those who are in the habit of attending to the institutions above named, know how true this is. Many are the sad instances that could be mentioned of the truth of this assertion; and thus, although the utmost care is exerted to prevent contagion by the medical gentlemen having the care of this department, is it not very sad to know that, when a patient has been cured of another complaint, notwithstanding all precautions, the poor convalescent should be attacked by this fell disease, and, from a weakened system, thus become an easy prey to the attack, and die?—yet, Mr. Editor, as you well know, this has often been the case. In one of the institutions above named, every effort was made to isolate small-pox patients, yet occasionally infection would occur, and with fatal results.

What should be done in the name of suffering humanity, is the question that should engage the utmost attention of every lover of his kind? Permit me to offer a few suggestions as to this question, as follows :—An inexpensive building, in an isolat-