

Sir James Y. Simpson

ON THE PREVENTION OF SMALL POX.

As a proof of Sir James Y. Simpson's indefatigable exertions in the promotion of sanitary science, a recent pamphlet on the stamping out of small pox may be cited, which contains elements of a plan by which small pox may be as easily confined, as well as stamped out, as the recent cattle plague was done. The principle inculcated is that of entire and perfect isolation—that is, that all cases on their appearance, whether in the higher or lower ranks of life, should be placed as it were in quarantine: that no one should, on any pretence, be allowed to enter the sick chamber; that the attendants and nurses should be those who are certain to be non-conductors, or incapable of being affected, in consequence of having already passed through cow-pox or small pox. Not only is the seclusion whether at home or in hospital to be continued during the process of the disease, but as it is well expressed in the system of regulations shown up by Sir James Y. Simpson during the convalescence from the disease, or until the power of infecting others is past. Now, this is a point on which the general public are deplorably ignorant, as they fancy as soon as the disease manifests a remission, that all danger is past, whereas, it is well known to the profession that during convalescence there is more danger from infection than at any other time. One or two instances of this are mentioned in the pamphlet, one particularly, where a healthy merchant took scarlet fever by receiving a letter from the hands of a little girl, his lodge-keeper's daughter, who was in convalescence from the disease, and of which he eventually died. This, therefore, proves how, in all infectious diseases, a strict system of quarantine should be enforced; and though in some diseases this measure is only of partial benefit, from the impossibility of complete seclusion from all susceptible of taking the disease, in small-pox this is so far obviated, it is possible to surround the patient by those incapable of being affected.—*New Orleans Jour. of Medicine.*

Attendance of Medical Officers at Hospitals.

The question has often been asked us, and again quite recently, whether medical officers of hospitals can reasonably object to some record being kept of their attendance at the institution to which they give their gratuitous advice. We cannot see how any such objection can be tenable; for, though "officers," the medical men are still "men under authority;" and although their services are gratuitous, they must, in some sense, be under the authority of the Board which appoints them. At many, if not most, of the London hospitals a record is kept by the medical officers signing an attendance-book on entering the institution; and this is obviously a more agreeable method than being "marked" by a subordinate. At one large school and hospital, whilst no record is kept of attendances, the beadle is provided with a "Register of On and Lecturer," and it is his duty, whenever a lecture or attendance is omitted, to bring the book to the delinquent at his next attendance, in order that the omission may be registered with his signature. Law is said to have a terror only for evil-doers; and so we imagine any regulation which

brings into contrast the regular attendance of the zealous officer with the perfunctory performance of duty by an indolent colleague could have no terrors for the former, whilst it would show those interested in the welfare of the establishment by whom the work was done.—*Lancet.*

Vaccination.

The Board of Controllers of the Public Schools of Philadelphia, at their meeting on December 8th, adopted a resolution that hereafter no child shall be admitted to or continued in the public schools of Philadelphia unless it has been vaccinated. The propriety of such a regulation may be judged by the forcible remarks of Sir James Y. Simpson, the celebrated physician of Edinburgh, who says that "a rattlesnake or a tiger escaping from a travelling menagerie into a school full of children would, in all probability, not wound or kill nearly so many children as would a boy or girl coming among them affected with or still imperfectly recovered from scarlet fever, measles, or small-pox. Most probably these obnoxious animals are always, as far as possible, prohibited from making such visitations, and the infected boy or girl should be prohibited also during the time that they are running through the courses and convalescence of such contagious diseases, or while they exhale from their bodies a virus of dangerous and deadly potency." The School Controllers should, therefore, adopt a further regulation in reference to the re-admission of pupils who have not perfectly recovered from the diseases mentioned.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter.*

Dr. Brown-Séquard and the Paris Faculty.

We are informed that in all probability Dr. Brown-Séquard will shortly be called upon to occupy a chair in the Paris School of Medicine. Before the change which we mention in another part of our journal, and by which Claude Bernard's laboratory has been transferred from the Sorbonne to the Museum, it had been arranged that Dr. Brown-Séquard should take the chair of Comparative Physiology at the Museum. Now, however, in the honour of the gentleman last named, the chair of Comparative Medicine, which had been created for Rayer, and which since his death has remained unoccupied, will again be put up, and will be given to Dr. Brown-Séquard, with the new name of chair of Comparative Pathology. We are glad to be the first to mention this event, and we only see additional evidence of the high estimation in which Dr. Brown-Séquard is held, in the efforts which are being made by the French Government to attach him to one of the scientific or medical chairs of Paris.—*Lancet.*

Medical News, Items, &c.

In a letter from JAMES B. BURNETT, to the *New Orleans Journal of Medicine*, we find the following:

The clinical advantages of New York City are grand. In no other city of the United States are the resources so immense. To give you some idea