

of scientific men. The first ably advocates the utility of medical statistics, and the second as ably proves their necessity.

There is no department in the world of science of more value or importance to the people than medicine, and, yet, there is none that receives so little attention here at the hands of the government. The petition of an errant quack receives more prompt and considerate attention, than the suggestions of any number of the most learned of the legitimate members of the medical body. These remarks are drawn forth by the application of Dr. Allison's paper on medical statistics to the actual position of affairs here.

Several months since, from 50 to 60 of the most eminent medical practitioners from all sections of the country, recommended the appointment of a medical gentleman,—who was willing to sacrifice his professional emoluments and advantages in the cause of science,—to visit the different Quarantine Stations in the Northern and Eastern States of America, and report upon their efficiency and utility, &c., previous to the next meeting of Parliament. Up to this period, however, no more attention has been paid to this highly important recommendation, prompted by science and humanity alone, than if it had been the recommendation of a parish-beadle.

It is a matter of notoriety that the system of Quarantine that has oppressed this country, for upwards of a quarter of a century, has totally failed in its contemplated objects. Complaints have been so loud and so frequent, that like the cry of, wolf! wolf! they have ceased to alarm. Scientific medical enquiry, there has been none; and the biassed, and interested statements of its officials, have been both cited, and acted upon, authoritatively. In all attempts to enlighten the government on the subject, it has acted like the deaf adder which stoppeth her ears. England well knows the value of medical statistics, registration, &c., and, the reports of the Registrar General, have long been authority for legislative guidance; whereas in Canada, with her material progress, her boundless territory, her undeveloped sources of wealth, *nothing whatever* has yet been done, in a department so essential to human safety and happiness. The sum of her legislation, (harsh though it may sound,) resulting only in providing coffins and graves for the dead; instead of devising means to prevent the extension of disease.

Neither my time, nor your space will permit me to enlarge on this subject; and, I will, therefore, confine myself to a few extracts, that bear more forcibly upon this subject than anything I can say.

Dr. Allison in vol. 1 ut supra, page 385, says:—"It has so frequently and so plausibly been urged, against all the inquiries and studies which are termed statistics, that the force of such reasoning may be applied to