

and imposition, and of consequence neither honest nor respectable, and this idea be made to spread, as it ought to do, from the teachers of religion and morality, a great point will be gained.

It will be more difficult to reach the newspaper publisher, who is of course much influenced by motives of gain, and whose income from advertising must necessarily be largely supplemented by advertising the quack medicines which figure so extensively in the newspapers. But here again the want of respectability must be made to attach to this class of advertising. Some newspapers will not advertise lotteries, partly because there is a law against it, and partly because it is obviously lending countenance to schemes that are often dishonestly managed; and the same odium should be made to attach to the flagitious puffs of the pill vendor.

Another moral means which may be relied on for checking quackery is the cultivation of a higher and general knowledge of human physiology. The more intelligent we find any class of people, the more ready do we find that class to repose the fullest confidence in the educated and qualified practitioner. It is principally among the ignorant and less intelligent classes that the love of quackery prevails. To these people medicine is medicine all the same whether it comes from the shop of a nostrum-vendor or the dispensing office of a medical man; and we can only hope to act upon such people by offering them a different example in the practice of their more intelligent superiors.

Lastly, and most hopeless class of all to operate upon, with the expectation of discountenancing the sale of proprietary medicines, we have the druggists. Although brought much in contact with them, physicians have confessedly little influence with druggists. The profits of the patent medicine trade are too great for druggists to relinquish this branch of their business on the mere recommendation of their patrons in the profession. The druggists have much to answer for. In league with the quacks, they often turn quacks themselves. Instead of maintaining cordial relations with doctors, there is too often ground for an antagonistic feeling. We are inclined to give up the druggists with a shake of the head as "bad cases." But let us hope that the druggists are not all bad, and that when ignorant and ill-advised people come to their shops seeking relief for their ailments in a vaunted quack remedy some of these dealers will be found honest and disinterested enough to take a proper course in recommending their customers to go rather to a qualified practitioner.

We have here given a preference to moral means as likely to be effective; but we do not on that account range ourselves against legislative measures. Our columns are always open to the promulgation and discussion of any particular proposal that may have for its end the good of the profession and public in this respect.

#### TORONTO, GENERAL HOSPITAL.

We are glad to learn that Dr. Reeve, who recently resigned his position as Surgeon to the Toronto Eye and Ear Infirmary, has been appointed to a similar position in the Toronto General Hos-

pital. He will deliver lectures during the winter, open to the students of the different schools. We are glad to be able further to state that Dr. Reeve was appointed at the request of the medical staff of the hospital, which is no little compliment.

#### A GRATEFUL PATIENT.

It is rumoured that a rare piece of good fortune has befallen a general practitioner in the north of London at the hands of a grateful patient. The patient, lately deceased, is said to have left his medical man the principal part of his property, to the value of £20,000. We have reason to believe the rumour not unfounded. We may be allowed to express our congratulations on this event, and to say that such a disposition of property in certain circumstances may be highly creditable to legator and legatee. The profession which is honoured by such a compliment to one of its members, has never been suspected of undue influence. Though having to do with men, and women too, in their weakest and most emotional moods, it has kept to its simple duty of removing their diseases and relieving their pains, and such windfalls as that which we allude to to-day have come only often enough to excite the pleasure and satisfaction of the public, which, in its collective capacity, always takes a generous view of the desert of medical men.—*Lancet*.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### TORONTO EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MEDICAL TIMES.

Sir,—Will you allow me space in your journal, (which, allow me to say, I prize very highly), to say that in consequence of the unprofessional conduct of Dr. Roseburgh, I have resigned my (nominal) position of Consulting Surgeon to the Toronto Eye and Ear Infirmary.

WM. CANNIFF, M.D., M.R.C.S., Eng.  
Toronto, Sept. 22, 1873.

#### PHYSIOLOGY.

##### IS UREA FORMED IN THE BLOOD OR IN THE TISSUES?

At the last meeting of the Société de Biologie M. Rabuteau read a paper on the relation which exists between the quantity and composition of the food on the one hand and the amount of urea excreted on the other. M. Rabuteau maintains with Lehmann, Frerichs, Bidder and Schmidt, and others, that urea proceeds directly from the oxidation of the albuminoid matters introduced into the blood, and that the albumen of the tissues does not contribute, or contributes in a very small degree, to its formation. In other words, reproducing the old comparison so often made between the organism and a machine which develops force not at the expense of its constituent parts, but at the expense of the fuel, he maintains that in an absolute sense the tissues do not undergo wear and tear, and that the albuminoid matters burnt and converted into urea have not at any time made a part of our tissues. As M. Lepine, however, remarks (*Gazette Médicale de Paris*), there is no correlation between these two

propositions; for although the kind of alimentation exerts a powerful influence on the excretions, it by no means follows that the alimentary substances are burnt directly in the blood or lymph without having formed temporarily part of the tissues, for it is very intelligible that a superabundant supply of food may render the nutrition of the tissues more active, and aid the process of their renewal. M. Rabuteau's proposition is contested by Hoppe-Seyler, who thinks the oxidation of the proteinous substances in the blood is quite hypothetical, and, in point of fact, is a view that cannot be sustained. The blood, he says, has, *per se*, no oxidizing property; the tissues alone have this power. No doubt in blood drawn from a vein reduced substances are found to be present after a short interval, but this is only the consequence of incipient putrefaction. Oxidation only occurs external to the bloodvessels and in the tissues themselves, and the materials of which the cells forming the tissues is composed, far from being fixed and immutable, is constantly undergoing changes and re-oxidation. Notwithstanding this opinion entertained by an excellent chemist, it must be remembered that Voit to a certain extent agrees with M. Rabuteau, and holds that a certain portion of the urea proceeds from what he terms the "albumen of the circulation," which has never formed a part of the tissues.

The New York Medical Review states that a new and deadly poison has lately been discovered called Inca, obtainable by pressure from the seeds of the *Strophantus hispidus*, a plant found in Gaboon. It quickly paralyzes the heart, and appears to be more powerful even than digitaline.

There is no doubt that cholera has obtained a firm footing at Havre, cases having occurred in nearly every quarter of the town and in the soldiers' barracks. A special meeting of the medical men has been convened to consider what steps should be taken to arrest the progress of the disease. The English visitors are all leaving Trouville, the popular watering place in the neighbourhood of the infected town. Cholera has also broken out at Rouen, where the number of cases amounts to 20 a day. In Berlin, up to the 27th ult., 203 cases had occurred, 137 of them proving fatal. In Vienna 239 deaths were recorded during the week ending August 23rd. The disease shows no sign of abating in Munich, where in the ten days, August 16th to 25th, the cases amounted to 349, of which 118 were fatal. In the two days, August the 27th and 28th, there were 24 new cases and 15 deaths.

Eighteen Norwegians separated in September, 1872, from their ship on the northern shores of Spitzbergen, were forced to winter at a place on the shore called Mitterbuk, where they were all found, a few weeks ago, dead, by Captain Mack, who was sent in quest of them. They had no lack of food—of a kind,—as biscuit was found beside them; but they wanted vegetables, and scurvy setting in, they languidly crowded over the fire, and so died one by one. Want of provisions might have proved their salvation; for men cast ashore at Spitzbergen immediately set about scraping antiscorbutics from under the snow, and kept up the circulation in hunting wild animals, whose warm blood when drunk also prevents scurvy, and whose furs supply clothing. Six Dutchmen a good many years ago wintered at Spitzbergen in this way, and survived. They were wiser in their generation, however, than the unfortunate Norwegians, who perished (as did also a second crew from Holland, who wintered there before them) by neglecting the pursuit of wild beasts and antiscorbutics, and shivering before the fire in their hut.