

not been so successful in examining—a thing naturally to be expected. If a man is engaged each year in teaching a subject, he will necessarily make a better examiner in that subject than one who is engaged in general practice, and does not devote special attention to any one subject. And this while the qualifications and ability of the latter gentleman are quite on a par with those of the teacher.

The way is open, and we think it a fair and just way, to lessen the number of college men in the Council. We mean, by taking away the right of representation from those colleges or universities that do not teach medicine. It seems an anomaly, and opposed to the spirit of college representation, that such should have a voice in medical matters.

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#### AT OUR GATES.

Now that the grim hand of cholera is knocking at our gates it becomes the duty of every medical man to be thoroughly posted as to the best methods of checking this scourge, should it succeed in gaining a foothold in America. It is all very well for Sir Edwin Arnold to playfully refer to it as "a pain in the tummy." In his case "familiarity breeds contempt," for, coming as he does, from India and Japan, where the disease usually attacks the natives, the Europeans enjoying a certain immunity, owing to their more cleanly habits, he considers it a thing to be made light of. But, taking the mortality in Hamburg, one in every two-and-a-half attacked dying, the awful nature of the plague becomes apparent.

Every suspicious case of diarrhoea should be closely watched, and not merely put down as harmless, for with cholera in New York city, as it is at present, a traveller might easily come into Ontario bearing the germs of the disease, in spite of quarantine, and let a case but once get into a community and infect the source of water supply, and it will require strenuous efforts upon the part of the health authorities to eradicate it.

Cholera is propagated in somewhat the same manner as typhoid fever, the germ entering the stomach by means of the water or food supply, and possibly by means of dust, laden with germs entering the naso-pharynx and subsequently swallowed. In our opinion the latter source of infection is

much more common than is ordinarily supposed. The fact that England, with her many ports open to foreign commerce, has successfully grappled with the disease, should make us hopeful that our system of quarantine will be likewise efficient to isolate any cases entering Canada.

In this disease prevention is truly much better than cure, for, like the majority of acute diseases, it is self-limited, and runs a short course, characterized by great depression of the vital forces.

All water should be carefully boiled before use, and personal cleanliness carefully attended to. With these details followed out, and the people prevented, so far as possible, from becoming panic-stricken, the chances of an epidemic are greatly lessened.

Sir Edwin Arnold says, "the germs of cholera cannot survive a low temperature, dying upon the approach of winter." That this is not the case in Canada, is shown by the fact that in the epidemic fifty years ago the disease lasted through the winter and spring months, and it has been clearly proven that the bacillus may exist in ice, all of which goes to warn us not to relax our vigilance one iota on account of the approach of cold weather. While there is not great danger to be apprehended at present, it is well to remember that forewarned is forearmed.

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#### MEETING OF THE CANADA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Canada Medical Association was held in the Parliament buildings at Ottawa, on September 21st, 22nd and 23rd. It was indeed a successful meeting; upwards of one hundred and fifty members being present, and those who have in the past entertained any fears that the Association was on the wane, may dispel the illusion. There was a goodly contingent from Montreal, and a fair number from Toronto and Hamilton; while the local profession entertained the members in a becoming manner. On the evening of the 22nd a magnificent banquet was participated in by members of the Association, at which music and song, together with reason and soul, constituted the order of business until the small hours of the morning. Not a little of the success of the meeting was due to the attendance of honorary members from the United States, and