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# ◇ MEDICAL CRITICISM. ◇

No. 10.—NOVEMBER 4th, 1882.

A Weekly Sheet, by DAVID EDWARDS, published on Saturdays, and sold at Hawkins & Co.'s, 67 Yonge Street, Toronto.

PRICE 50 CENTS—Copies or any single number can be had, in quantities, at 15c. per dozen.

When Doctors multiply disease at the point of the lancet, with their right hand, and profess to combat it with their left, it is a legitimate inference that their left hand is deplorably ignorant of what their right hand is doing. Each of their hands, it is to be feared, was well acquainted with the proceedings of the other, when in manipulating the ignorant Legislature of Ontario, they caused the following enactment to become law:—"If any father or mother, or person so having as aforesaid the care, nurture or custody of any such child as aforesaid, does not cause such child to be vaccinated within the periods prescribed by this Act, or does not, on the eighth day after the vaccination has been performed, take or cause to be taken such child for inspection, according to the provisions in this Act respectively contained, then such father or mother, or person having the care nurture or custody of such child as aforesaid, so offending, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five dollars, recoverable on summary conviction before the Police Magistrate for the city in which the offence was committed, or if there is no such officer, then before any two Justices of the Peace sitting and having jurisdiction in such city.

## DR. O'WILY'S "FAVORITE PRESCRIPTION."

How to curry favor with the rich. —First seek a wholesale "dry-goods" man: tell him you have "a fat thing for him": both his ears will immediately be pricked up: tell him you have a circle of feminine acquaintances: then you have his heart; next whisper, "any silks at wholesale prices?" "Certainly," is the prompt reply. Lady Guy Flouncy—ever open, as is Her Ladyship, to cheap bargains, blandly accepts the silks, and in recognition of the attentive consideration of Dr. O'Wily, assures him that *she* will work the old man.

No American physician can refuse to attend any sick person, be that person rich or poor: this is in accordance with the code of ethics of the several States.

A gentleman of this city who died in January last, of the age of twenty-six, was bitten by a bed-bug at the age of thirteen; he was treated by three physicians for three different diseases; a fourth physician recognized the symptoms of syphilis in the case, as manifested by his condition when first bitten: by the apparent subsidence of the disorder: and by its ultimate re-appearance, after the lapse of eleven years; if the bite of a bug will convey such a disorder, how much more effectually will the point of a lancet?

## LUCID.

The subjoined paragraph is the first of a series, which purports to be an "Explanation of the map" published by the Provincial Board of Health of Ontario, in connexion with the Board's weekly health bulletin. "The six diseases most prevalent in the ten Districts, are seen to be arranged in their order of prevalence, while at the same time the percentage which each disease is of the whole reported for its District is shown."

## CURATIVE POWER V. COLLEGE DEGREES.

Magnetism will reduce fever if applied at an early stage, within an hour; in nine cases out of ten, lame back (arising from sprains, or from disordered kidneys) can be cured by electricity; feminine weaknesses, in nine cases out of ten, as experience has proved, can be more effectually dealt with by magnetism than by medicine. We maintain that it is to the interest of the community to know these things, and as a consequence, it is *not* to the interest of the medical profession that they should.

## "SIMILIA."

There are ostensible teachers of the cuttle-fish order, who deal largely in the impalpable; such persons are aware that it exceeds the power of the uninitiated to penetrate the *ink* with which they enshroud themselves; four of them have recently surrounded a sufferer in this city, whose mental power was sufficiently unabated to lead him to pronounce them all "geese." They availed themselves, in this case, of the cry of "Malarial fever," and although none of the thousands in the neighborhood were effected by this putative fever, unprofessional persons would be unlikely to deny the statement. All they know is, that the luckless patient was persistently plied with medicine which his stomach ejected; that the doctors did not take the hint from nature which this ejection was calculated to convey; that morphine was smuggled into the medicine contrary to the patient's wish, and that a *post mortem* examination exhibited a *perfectly healthy stomach*, which a fever is not apt to do. The germ-theory of disease affords another illustration of this love of the impalpable; a medical illuminator has recently informed the public that these pernicious germs have been known to force their way through twelve feet of superincumbent earth! Who will have the boldness, in the face of this professional testimony, to affirm that these germs did *not* seek day-light under such a weight of difficulty? An honest (?) priest who for many years had been exhibiting what purported to be a single hair of the blessed Virgin, was on one occasion presenting himself in the attitude required for the suitable exhibition of the hair, when a too-enquiring member of his flock ventured to remark that he was unable to perceive it: the priest replied that though he had been exhibiting it for many years, he must confess that he had not himself seen it. His reverence "walked by faith and not by sight," as the doctors must be supposed to do. Whether malarial fever can, according to the law of "similia," be subdued by the Virgin's hair, or the hair be destroyed by the fever must be left to the faculty to decide.