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# MEDICAL CRITICISM.

No. 6.

FEBRUARY 17, 1883.

2ND SERIES.

*A Weekly Sheet, by DAVID EDWARDS, published on Saturday, and sold at Patterson & Co.'s  
No. 4 Adelaide Street West, Toronto.*

PRICE, \$1.50—Copies of any single number can be had, in quantities, at 15c. per dozen.

## NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN.

It is highly satisfactory to hear of a change of opinion on the part of one of the most prominent physicians in this city. Time was, and not long ago, that he urged the fact of his having had his own children vaccinated, as an argument for vaccinating the only child of a patient; the doctor now says—"If you wish to have your child vaccinated, you must ask some other doctor to do it; I will not."

Several years have elapsed since the Editor of this publication was requested to write a series of local biographies; he assented to the request, and as he has always cherished the idea that a writer under such circumstances, should be master of the situation, he undertook to find fifty persons in Toronto, who would be worth writing about. The publisher, whose experience had been chiefly confined to the other side of the line, appeared not to know that there are men in the world, who are unlikely to use a literary white-wash brush; he therefore struck about among the plutocracy for orders for "Notabilities of Toronto," and in one case received an order for fifty copies of the work, on the assumption that the afore-named brush would be applied to the person who gave the order; the publisher had to learn that not only that man's possessions would not ensure the writing of the biography, but that no other possessions would. It so happened however that the Editor, almost immediately on his reaching the city, had cultivated friendly relations with a journeyman painter, and he was satisfied that the painter deserved a place among the selected fifty; he wrote the biography accordingly, to which a photograph of the subject of it was attached, and he always felt more interest in that particular life, than he did in the other seven of the only number of the work that was published; in concluding the biographical notice, the Editor expressed his conviction that Mr. Carter (the subject of it) merited a position in parliament, and it is not a little satisfactory to realize that the time has now arrived when the wage-earning classes have awoken to the discovery that they have hitherto been the tools in the hands of rival parties (each of which for the most part aim at individual aggrandizement), and have consequently decided that they will secure direct representation of their interest; Mr. Carter would probably be too modest to tell them what the Editor may be permitted to communicate—that he has repeatedly declined the position of an employer, in order to advocate their cause as one of themselves; he has done this as a member of a deputation to Mr. Gladstone, and repeatedly on this side the globe, in deputations to Mr. Mowat; these circumstances would not have been mentioned in this place, had it not been probable that, when in Parliament, *Mr. Carter will assist the doctors to take care of us.*

## "INCURABLE."

The only disorder to which we are disposed to apply the above designation is that of *ignorantia medicorum* (*medical ignorance*). We feel ashamed to confess that this is alike chronic and incurable.

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### HERALDIC.

Our zeal for the honor and dignity of the medical profession emboldens us to offer another suggestion or two, for the enrichment of its coat of arms ; we cannot be content that the shield should lack a crest, and we think *the ostrich* is an eminently suitable bird to be represented in that relation to the faculty ; not on account of its digestive powers, which are doubtless equal to the assimilation of mercurial pills, nor on account of its swiftness, which might aptly symbolize *swift destruction* ; but rather in consideration of its mode of hiding from danger ; the bird, as most readers will know when danger threatens, is wont to hide its head in the sand ; in that particular, as we apprehend, it is preeminently calculated to represent a profession which, in view of the approach of Homœopaths, Hydropaths, Medical Botanists, Physio-Medical Practitioners, Electricians and Magnetists, persistently buries its head in the sand of Dunglison's Medical Lexicon.

Whenever the Herald King at Arms may be consulted on this subject, he will doubtless also accede to the propriety of adding *the red hand* to the shield.

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### NEW MEDICAL DODGE.

The great unprotected obviously need protection ; the medical profession therefore most unselfishly induces the (medically) uninformed Parliaments of the world to protect the gullible public against all forms of imposture except those emanating from their corporate bodies ; one manœuvre is succeeding another just now, in so spasmodic a fashion as seems to suggest a consciousness that medical orthodoxy is imperilled ; the latest we hear of is a nurse-voucher agency, calling itself "a directory for nurses." An M. D. who has somewhat recently developed stylishly is the principal agent in this business, and dubs himself "Registrar," any one in need of Betsey Prig, or Mrs. Gamp, applies to Dr. Prig for advice as to the virtues of Betsey ; the advice is given, in consideration of the transfer of \$1.00 to the pocket of the doctor ; \$2.00 if the advice is sought at night, with the additional proviso that "an extra charge will be made in cases requiring unusual labor or responsibility ; this two sided move therefore has at least some cuteness to commend it. The tender consideration for the nurse appears to confirm the testimony of the late Dr. Rush (which we printed in No. 4) as to the comparative importance of nurses.

"Travelling expenses should be paid by the patient, and the nurse's washing be done." Would it not be well to include arrears of the nurse's washing ?

"A nurse should have sufficient sleep (if possible a continuous one), an hour for exercise in the fresh air every day, and facilities for bathing at suitable intervals."

"A lunch or an early meal should be provided for the nurse, if required to sit up at night."

As the nurse gives \$2.00 for the privilege of receiving professional recommendation, these considerations will help to account for the style which is perceptible in the appointments of certain M. Ds.

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### AGUE AND FEVER.

The above-named twin disorders have been conquered by the same means as have been so successful in relation to inflammatory rheumatism.

## AMERICAN SENTIMENT *RE* FEMININE PHYSICIANS.

At a meeting of the American Medical Association, the question of admitting ladies to practise medicine has been the subject of debate, and the parties were so nearly equally divided that fifty-seven of the members were opposed to it, while fifty-two were in its favour. The sentiments of one Dr. Pallen, of St. Louis, on this subject, are sufficiently edifying to be worthy of a record; the doctor while informing those concerned that "At home he is considered a friend of the ladies" (doubtless it paid him to be so considered), and that "nothing would give him greater pleasure than to advocate their claims where it could be done legitimately," yet maintained that "*it is contrary to the spirit of our profession to have anybody connected with it except men, and men of reason.*"

This luminary continued to argue that "nature has so ordained the female that at certain periods, she is absolutely unfitted for anything, consequently could not attend to the duties of the physicians;" this we may presume would equally apply to Dr. Pallen, whenever he proved to be unable to heal himself; after delivering himself of further arguments of equal cogency with the foregoing, this authorized healer deprecated the passing of a resolution favorable to lady-practitioners, and drew the following picture of the baneful consequences of so doing—"A thousand women (Shiphrahs and Puahs, Ex. 1, 15,) practising specialties connected with the female organization, will demand recognition at our hands, and claim authority for their *business* pretensions.

I think the resolution should be voted down, because it is *contrary to the laws of nature for women to practise medicine.*"

Another luminary, Dr. Davis of Illinois echoed the sentiments of his forerunner, and it is to be feared that wherever there is a monopolist, with a portion of his income in jeopardy, the same enlightened views will prevail; one can only hope that as the ladies and others apprehend the bearing of all this *logic*, they will take the matter into their own hands.

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## BEARING OF MEDICINE.

A clergyman in the time of Cromwell, who was deprived of his living for non-conformity, remarked beforehand that "if he were deprived, it should cost a hundred men their lives." This remark was naturally repeated until it resulted in his Reverence being summoned before a magistrate. The clergyman's defence was that, in the event of his losing his benefice, he had resolved to practise medicine, and then it would not be difficult to kill a hundred men.

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## LIENTERIA, OR CHRONIC MORNING DIARRHOEA—COMMON SENSE VERSUS *ANY*PATHY.

An elderly man of this city sought the advice of a homœopathic physician, in relation to the above-named disorder; the problem for the physician to solve was—how to arrest the peristaltic (worm-like) action of the bowels—he therefore prescribed for his incredulous patient, a ride in the nearest street-car until the patient should be tired; as he improved—a journey to the terminus of the Northern Railway—with medicine *left till called for*; years have passed since this prescription was given; the previously despairing patient quickly recovered, and the medicine has not yet been called for.

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## DOUBLY CHEERING.

*Good news for sufferers from Inflammatory Rheumatism.*

It is not a little satisfactory to know that this distressing disorder has yielded to the instrumentality of vapour baths, and the application of electricity, and *that*

in numerous instances, one of these instances is happily the case of a physician, who hitherto has been unable to heal himself; as this gentleman is deriving great benefit from the treatment above-named, we trust that *he at least* will extend the like treatment to others.

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### CHRONIC DYSPEPSIA.

A young lady from Louisiana had been suffering from this distressing disorder for six years: the professed skill of the lady's neighbourhood had been excised in vain; she then repaired to Chicago with no better result; ultimately she found her way to Toronto, and the physician she consulted concluded that a plant (of the same nature as the Californian yeast-plant) had formed in her stomach; as plants necessarily thrive by what they feed on, the physician aimed at removing the supply; he therefore prescribed for diet, simple dried bread, and gradually, other articles of food containing, or yielding as little saccharine matter as possible; he prohibited the use of liquids at meal times, in order, so far as possible, to frustrate fermentation in the stomach; improvement began to manifest itself in the case forthwith; before leaving Toronto for her southern home, this young lady was sufficiently recovered to enjoy a sleigh-drive of twenty-eight miles when the thermometer registered eight degrees below zero.


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### AGUE.

We may be said to have in some degree anticipated the homœopathic mode of treating ague, when in No. 9, of the first series of these sheets, we incidentally gave an account of Hahneman's discovery of the action of cinchona in relation to it. Our readers may however bear to be reminded how this great man related that he produced the characteristic symptoms of ague in his own person, by administering to himself four *quenzen* of cinchona twice a day, for several days; his feet and the tips of his fingers first became cold; he felt tired and sleepy; his head began to beat, his pulse became hard and quick; he experienced an insufferable feeling of uneasiness, a trembling (but without chill), a weariness in all his limbs, then a beating in his head, redness of the cheeks, thirst, obtuseness of the senses, stiffness in the limbs, and a disagreeable feeling which seemed to have its seat in the periosteum of all the bones in the body; with all these symptoms he had been familiar when attending his patients; his self-produced paroxysm lasted each time two or three hours, and came afresh whenever he repeated the dose, but not otherwise; he ceased to take cinchona (quinine) and became well.

This simple story illustrates the principle and the practice styled homœopathy—a word composed of two Greek words, which convey the idea to those who understand the derivation of the word, that the means which will produce the symptoms of any given disorder in a healthy person, are used as remedies for that same disorder, in a sick person. This is the principle, by the adoption of which, Hahneman cured his thousands, and his successors in this mode of practice, have cured their hundreds of thousands. In regard to the treatment of ague, the *practice* would doubtless be modified according to the peculiar character of the disorder, although the general *principle*, on which it would be treated, would in all cases be maintained.

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“PULPIT CRITICISM,” by the same author, sold at PATTERSON & Co.'s, 4 Adelaide Street West. Price \$1.50 per annum.