

 Sent on approval.

MEDICAL CRITICISM.

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History notoriously repeats itself, and it is obvious that the “liberal and enlightened” Legislature of Ontario took a leaf out of the history of Spain, when it instituted the Medical Inquisition; it is a happy circumstance that the Inquisitors have substituted the pocket-screw for the thumbscrew and the rack; the practical result of this relaxation of discipline is, that any medical heretic who has been found guilty of curing by wholesale, after a heterodox fashion, may receive absolution, on undergoing the penance of attending a series of lectures, and paying a round sum in dollars.

LIFE OUT OF DEATH.

Every one who is capable of reflection will have recognized the fact that “life out of death” is a fundamental principle both in nature and in revealed truth; “Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.” John xii, 24. Familiar however as persons in civilized countries are, with the fact above indicated, they have not extensively learned to apply it to the mutual relation of doctor and patient, and we trust they may not yet conclude that the life of the doctor necessarily involves the death of the patient. The subjoined narrative must therefore be regarded as exceptional.

A lady who for fourteen years was the object of a medical man's solicitude, and who kept her bed throughout that period, survived her doctor; and strange to say, began to recover from the time that the doctor ceased to be: in six months time, she was able to walk abroad.

TESTIMONY.

Dr. GEORGE GREGORY—a standard medical authority—states that “In every view the doctrines of fever must be considered of paramount importance, and they constitute therefore, with great propriety, the foundation of all pathological reasoning.”

Dr. A. W. BARCLAY, M.D., Cantab. and Edin., F.R.C.P., Assistant Physician to St. George's Hospital, observes of this same “foundation,” that “The essential element of fever is so entirely beyond the reach of our present means of investigation, that its diagnosis is partially imperfect.” Dr. B. also admits that “accurate diagnostic signs scarcely exist in fever.”

It is not customary for persons, when a fire has broken out in the basement of a house, to wait till it reaches the garret, before attempting to extinguish it, but it is customary for "the faculty" to wait several days, when called in to cases of fever, that they may learn meanwhile what course to pursue.

The Honorary Registrar General begs very respectfully to invite the attention of the Honorable Members of the Legislative Assembly to the fact that forty-four persons are recorded in the books of the Registrar General for Ontario, to have died in Toronto, of diphtheria, during the year 1881; and further to invite the attention to the fact that during the period above-named, a physician in large practice in the city, who has had scores of diphtheria cases, has not lost one. *The Honorary Registrar General* is of opinion that the plan of recording such facts as these, suggested in a former number of this sheet, would tend materially to diminish the rate of mortality.

"The object of medical science," say Gregory, Bigelow, Hays, Hooper, &c., "is to teach the art of preventing and curing disease." Boerhave, during the first thirty years of the eighteenth century, collected all the information on medicine that had been elicited prior to his day; but, after mature consideration of it, he concluded that all worth remembering was, "keep the feet warm, the head cool, the body open, and reject all physicians." The study of medicine has been cultivated in Germany (the country of Boerhave) ever since, and the latest result of the study is that proposed by Hahnemann, viz., to give *the ten millionth part of one grain of poison*, as an amendment on *two hundred and fifty grains*, as practised in the south-western of the United States.

HAHNEMANN'S SENTIMENTS IN 1786.

"A number of causes, I care not to count them up, have for centuries been dragging down the dignity of that divine science of practical medicine, and have converted it into a miserable grabbing after bread, a mere cloaking of symptoms, a degrading prescription trade, so that the real physicians are hopelessly jumbled together with a heap of befrilled medicine-mongers. How seldom is it possible for a straightforward man, by means of his great knowledge of the sciences, and by his talents, to raise himself above the crowd of medicasters, and to throw such a pure, bright sheen on the Healing Art, at whose altar he ministers, that it becomes impossible, even for the common herd, to mistake a glorious, benign evening star, for mere vapory skyfall!"

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