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# MEDICAL CRITICISM.

No. 5.

FEBRUARY 10, 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.

## CONGESTION OF THE LUNGS.

We have had sufficiently sad records of death from the above named disorder ; it is therefore the more satisfactory to record occasional triumphs over death, in relation to it ; a child, eight weeks of age, was in such a condition from congestion of the lungs, that its father did not think it could survive the night on which he sought medical aid ; a physician of Toronto sent a plaister by the father, which he knew would give the child relief, and in two hours it was well. We must re-assert that it is to the interest of the community that such a fact as the foregoing should be registered (say in the office of registration of births, etc.,) and duly attested by the persons cognizant of the circumstances ; instead of blindly speculating among doctors who may prove to be utterly incompetent to grapple with any particular malady, the public would then have some definite ground on which to repose their faith.

## SURGICAL SUCCESS.

It is a pleasure to record success of any kind, in relation to the healing art, and we trust that pleasure may often fall to our lot. The case subjoined is one of which we have seen photographs, and it is not surprising to hear the doctor say of it, that it is the worst case of the kind he ever saw.—J. G. aged 26, was wounded in the army ; the ball, (a poisoned one, they say), entered the thigh about three inches below the great trochanter, passing down at the back of the femur, and coming out about two inches and a half above the internal condyle. Several physicians had given the sufferer up as incurable ; the details of the appearance of the limb are such that we must spare our readers the description of them ; suffice it to observe that the body of the man is described as having been “a perfect skeleton.” The following ingredients were the means by which this amazing cure was effected. R. Yellow Parilla Root, DanJelion Root, Yellow Dock Root, Sarsaparilla Root, Nerve Root and Prince's Pine. Rye Whiskey was added to preserve it, and half an ounce of Iodide of Potassa to the pint. Also, Syrup of Iodide of Iron, commencing with ten drops, increasing the dose to a teaspoonful every three hours ; I applied the following externally, which completely healed the parts. Crude Petroleum Oil was applied with a feather twice a day, dusting over it some pulverized Charcoal. In four months the parts were healed.

## “ WELCOME.”

Words have been cynically said to have been given us to deceive, and the word “welcome” would appear to be no exception to the rule. As extended across the entrance-hall of the Toronto Hospital, there would appear to be no doubt that it is deceptive, inasmuch as we know a lady who was recently refused admission on

the Lord's day ; it can scarcely fail to happen that that day is the only one on which many persons can spare time to visit the sick ; with regard to the editor of "MEDICAL CRITICISM," it would involve an excessive amount of vanity on his part to suppose that he would be more welcome within the portals of the hospital than he would be within those of the Queen street Methodist Church ; and what shall we say of Homœopaths, Hydropaths (who prefer *uncolored* water as a means of healing) Medical Botanists, Physio-Medical Practitioners, Magnetists, Electricians, and " Peculiar People," who dispense with doctors, and take to their knees? will *they* be welcome? ignorant monopolists, whose power is traceable to the ignorance of those who have extended power to them, are supremely unlikely to mean what they say, when they parade their "welcome" to all comers to the hospital.

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## EXTRACTS FROM A TRACT

ENTITLED REMARKS ON "THE MISTAKES OF MOSES."

*By H. L. Hastings.*

When we consider that Moses was the founder of the first recorded national sanitary system ; the founder of the first republican government which the world has ever known, \* the United States of Israel ; the organizer of the first nation which worshipped the living God, in the midst of world-wide idolatries and defilements ; the founder of the first total abstinence society which history records (Num. vi.) ; the giver of a system of laws which, while other laws of antiquity are lost in oblivion or buried in contempt, is so founded on the immutable principles of truth and righteousness that it lies at the basis of all modern civil government, and has so ruled and moulded the character of the Jewish nation, that grey-headed judges and lawyers declare that they have never seen a Jew arraigned for a crime,—we may well inquire if the career of Moses was indeed such a gross mistake.

In Great Britain, where skepticism widely prevails, and "the mistakes of Moses" are discussed in club-rooms, beer-shops, and gin palaces, one person in every eleven is said to be a lunatic, a criminal, a pauper, or a drunkard. Would not the teachings of Moses, in spite of all his alleged "mistakes," go far to remedy the wreck and ruin which has been wrought there by intemperance, vice, and crime?

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\* A republican government, of which "Moses was king in Jeshurun."—ED.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario has selected two long-robed sages, as supporters of their coat of arms ; we recommend that these symbolic personages should be supplanted by a couple of armed Zulus ; the shield of the Zulu, it is true, would but feebly illustrate the two-fold shield of parliamentary and popular ignorance, by which the physicians are habitually protected ; the spear, and the poisoned arrows of the barbarian however, may be regarded as eminently suggestive. Were it not for the competition arising from the number of negroes already in the field, we should recommend the majority of the medical profession to go in for the re-union of the divorced vocations of barber and doctor, for their reluctance to learn anything apart from the traditions of the elders is painfully manifest. We know a gentleman who has wrought marvels, by means of a scientific use of electricity, and who offered to illuminate the pretenders composing a Board of Physicians with his electric light ; but their whole body was full of darkness ; they therefore preferred darkness to light, which appears to be a chronic weakness of the profession, regarded as a whole. The gentleman above referred to has not only himself been brought from death's door by means of electricity, when he was paralyzed, a confirmed dyspeptic, and a sufferer from heart disease, but he has

cured many friends of various ailments by the same means; one of these was a wealthy gentleman of Chicago, whose hand was so swollen, as the result of rheumatism, that the skin of every part was stretched to its utmost tension; the sufferer when recovered, offered to establish this electrician in Chicago, at a cost of some \$2,500; it is scarcely necessary to add that like most wealthy persons, this sufferer supposed he had had "the best advice;" at any rate he had paid as if he had.

This same gentleman was subsequently cured of bronchitis of five years' standing by the same means.

A case of white swelling of the knee of some years' standing, was likewise reduced by electrical means in five or six weeks. Severe cases of neuralgia, and sciatic rheumatism of two years' standing were entirely cured by means of electricity, as administered by the same gentleman. We may possibly, in view of such facts as the foregoing, embark on a pilgrimage, in quest of a doctor who is willing to learn.

### DUTIES OF THE MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER OF TORONTO.

With a prospect of \$1,500 per annum, with vaccination fees (the price of blood) and Government allowance, it is not surprising that we should hear of "a large number of applications for the position of Medical Health Officer;" Mr. Ald. Baxter's knowledge of the "goodness" of "a number of medical men" would probably be an interesting subject of investigation, whether the alderman's testimony relate to the spiritual excellence of these gentlemen (as regarded from the standard of the Queen Street Methodist Church) or to their professional skill; that according to *their own testimony*, they are qualified to discharge *all the duties* of the office, when one considers the prospect of emolument attaching thereto, can hardly be said to be surprising; that "*public vaccination*" should be *sated to be one of those duties, by the gentleman who has recently become so much opposed to vaccination as to tell his patients they must ask some one else to vaccinate their children, as he would not—this circumstance is one worthy of contemplation*; the spectacle of aldermanic thimble-riggers casting their medical dice for the behoof of the community, and knowing about as much of the principles, the practice, or the malpractice of their medical friends, as do the members of the legislature, and these honorable gentlemen knowing as much of the subject as do their boots—the docile public standing agape the while, in grateful admiration of the combination of legislative wisdom and the "craft" by which doctors and undertakers have "their gain,"—all this is confessedly instructive to contemplate! The subjoined groups of duties which may be expected to devolve on one of Mr. Ald. Baxter's "good medical men" at least possess the merit of being suggestive:—

1. Receiving complaints of nuisances, such as those arising from filthy or neglected premises, offensive trades, and many others too numerous to mention; investigating these, endeavouring to have them abated by the persons interested, and if necessary, setting other means in motion for that object; also inspecting in order to see that they have been abated.

2. Investigating complaints regarding defects in the plumbing and drainage of houses. Citizens can at the outset supply him with numerous instances where sickness and death have occurred from defects, such as direct communications between house and sewer, and sinks unprovided with drains discharging their contents under the floors. Very many such complaints will come to him, and will have to be investigated and remedied.

3. He will have to frame and see carried out regulations as to houses in course of erection, in accordance with the principles advocated in the Bill you recently presented to the Legislature (Sub. sec. 4 of sec. 1.)

4. He will have to co-operate with the City Commissioner in measures for keeping the city clean.

5. To take action in regard to wells containing water unfit for use and productive of disease.

6. To co-operate with Inspectors of Food and Public Analysts. The latter officials are not supposed by the Dominion Government to take the initiative in regard to adulterated and impure foods, nor to follow up offenders.

7. Amongst his duties may also be stated the framing of regulations regarding slaughter-houses.

8. For securing purity of the ice supply.

9. For securing pure milk.

10. For preventing over-crowding of tenements.

11. Looking after the sanitary condition of factories.

(a) Suggesting improvements in the ventilation of them.

(b) Suggesting improvements for the prevention of accidents.

(c) Seeing that proper sanitary appliances are provided for both sexes. Neglect of this has been the cause of much trouble, especially amongst female operatives and attendants.

(d) Seeing that people, especially the young, are not forced to work in unhealthy cellars.

(e) Looking into the hours of labour of young children. (Should the Factory Act come into force these may be amongst his duties.)

12. He might also be required to see that proper means are provided for preventing loss of life at fires.

13. And to make suggestions for preventing loss of life from various other accidental causes in the municipality, as, for example, measures to lessen the number of drowning accidents along our water front, and expedients in connection with our railway crossings, &c.

14. Public vaccination would be another duty which he would have to superintend.

15. As also all necessary means for preventing the spread of contagion. Disinfection of houses vacated by persons suffering from contagious diseases would in the past have been the means of preventing deaths which have occurred in Toronto, not to speak of the many other precautions which are supposed to be carried out.

16. Oversight of mortality statistics as required by the Dominion Government, will be another duty requiring much of his time.

17. The issuing of burial permits, so as to prevent persons being clandestinely removed with the object of covering up crime, should be another of his duties.

"The (principal) advantages of recent and proposed legislation" to which Dr. Oldright refers, in his letter to the civic committee, have hitherto, we apprehend, been divided between the doctors, the druggists, and the undertakers; the only legislation on this subject, in which we should have any confidence, would be that of the repeal of all existing Medical Acts.

The subjoined extract from Dr. Oldright's letter is likely to be of deep interest to the members of the medical profession:—

In Detroit the Medical Health Officer, who attends to nothing but the sanitary improvement and protection of the people, receives a salary of \$3,000; two clerks in his office receive respectively about \$1,100 and \$1,000. Dr. Rawley, a junior practitioner of medicine, receives in fees for disinfection of houses about \$300.

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