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◇ MEDICAL CRITICISM. ◇

No. 8.—OCTOBER 21st, 1882.

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

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

SPONGE *versus* DRAFT.

Dr. Sponge declined to visit a patient whom Dr. Draft had reduced to a dying condition. Mr. Pestle the druggist consequently declines to sell any more sponges to persons who purchase of Mr. Mortar, his competitor in the opposite store.

MEDICAL TRADES' UNION.

Any person who can prove that he administered fifteen grains of mercury to a sufferer, prior to 1850, can obtain a license to practise at the cost of his neighbors' lives, from the above-named Trades' Union; why therefore should not the carpenters insist on any pretender, who may choose to style himself a carpenter, being employed and paid as if he understood his business?

VACCINATION.

Dr. Creighton, of Cambridge University, gives the history of twelve cases of bovine tubercles in human beings, the disease being *a more rapid form of consumption than that peculiar to man.*—*United States Medical Investigator*, October, 1882, p. 333.

If consumption be conveyed in this insidious manner, at the point of the lancet, when the matter is taken straight from the animal, who can assign a limit to the transmission of disease, when it is taken from an apparently healthy human being?

A chymist of this city had a child vaccinated from the child of a neighboring family, which was apparently a healthy family; the child's arm healed after the lapse of three months, and about the time that the arm healed, the child had its first fit; the mother of the child from whom the vaccine matter had been taken, then said that her husband was subject to fits, *but none of her own children had had any*; the chymist's child died six months after its arm had healed. Another child of the same gentleman, together with a child of Dr. William Cruickshank, late of the 93rd Highlanders, was vaccinated from the child of a sergeant of the same regiment, the family being apparently healthy; the sergeant's child stammered, and the chymist's child (now forty-one years of age) has stammered ever since; the Doctor's child, spite of the attendance of six physicians, died within ten days of its vaccination; it transpired that the mother of the child from whom the vaccine matter had been taken, *had contracted a contagious disease, prior to her marriage, and there were no apparent vestiges of it attaching to her.*

Mr. Murphy's cross-examination of the medical gentlemen in the Bibby case yesterday was highly amusing, even if it did somewhat dissipate the popular faith in the wisdom and scientific attainments

of that fraternity. One doctor was quite unable to tell the average amount of blood contained in the human body, and the slips, corrections, and frank acknowledgments of ignorance which the cross-examination elicited were something astounding."--*Evening Telegram*, October 18th, 1882.

There are persons who tell us that the license to practise, granted by the medical council, gives us all the guarantee of curative power that we can desire ; for our own part, we prefer the guarantee afforded by proved success in relation to any malady, and we care not what means may be employed, short of two hundred and fifty grains of mercury—a favorite prescription in the South Western States.

JANUS.

The mythological personage above-named is represented as having possessed *two faces*, and most persons' experience of life will have led them to conclude that the gentleman has been favored with a pretty extensive progeny. Whether any of his descendants have found their way to Ontario, may be gathered from the following sketch :—

SCENE—An Hospital.

Enter Trustee, judiciously guarded by Medical Superintendent.

MEDICUS LOQUITUR—"Well, my poor man, how do you find yourself to-day?"

SUFFERER—(startled by the unwonted tone of sympathy)—replies that he is no better.

MEDICUS—"Is there anything you can fancy, that we can procure for you?"

SUFFERER,—(although astonished by the novel tone of the salutation, is not so far gone but he concludes that he will "improve the occasion.")—Timorously intimates that he thinks he could relish a few pickles.

MEDICUS—"Certainly, my man. (Aside to nurse.) Nurse, rush to Mrs. — and bring me a bottle of pickles."

TRUSTEE mutters—"How tender!"

DR. JANUS—(the following day, the Trustee being at a safe distance)—"You had the impudence to ask for pickles had you, you d—d scoundrel, if you dare to ask for pickles or anything else while you're under this roof, I'll take you by the cuff of the neck and pitch you out of the hospital."

The votaries of the original Janus commenced their worship by offering the *Deity wine*.

The original Janus was supposed to have charge of the gates of heaven. (Dr. J. is probably at a remote distance from that region). All terrestrial gates were named after Janus, and were supposed to be under his care ; he was therefore represented as holding a key in his left hand, and a staff in his right.

Not only does history repeat itself in these our days, but pagan fiction finds its counterpart in fact.

Earl Cairns designates Hahnemann the greatest benefactor of his age.

From 6000 to 7000 physicians and surgeons have adopted the principles of homœopathy ; these occupy about the same relation to the principles (?) of allopathy that the people called Quakers do to Roman Catholics.