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# MEDICAL CRITICISM.

No. 3.

JANUARY 27, 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.

We gather from the Report of the Hospitals of Ontario for 1882, that the average stay of each patient, including infants, in the Mattawa Hospital (which enjoys the unique privilege of not having a doctor within a hundred miles of it), is fourteen days, while the average days' stay of similar patients in the hospitals of Ottawa, Toronto, and Hamilton respectively is forty-two at the Ottawa General Protestant Hospital, twenty-six at the Roman Catholic Hospital, Ottawa, and thirty-three at the hospitals of Toronto and Hamilton respectively. The Mattawa Hospital is managed entirely by Sisters of Charity; the average days' stay of its inmates is less than half the number shown by nine out of the thirteen hospitals which are aided by Provincial funds.

## THE TORONTO HOSPITAL.

A woman who was received into the hospital lately, was suffering intense pain for thirty-one hours (how much longer we are unable to say) and no doctor had then been near her.

Typhoid fever is supposed to be infectious; possibly it is not so, when the sufferers are in hospital; for in the Toronto Hospital, visitors find themselves with a fever patient on one side of them, and a consumptive patient on the other.

Christmas decorations appeal to sentiment, but when they adorn an hospital, they involve an amount of hammering and confusion which lead the patients to conclude that the practice would be more honored in the breach than the observance.

## CONGESTION OF THE LUNGS.

The havoc which disease, doctors, and death have wrought of late among our fellow-citizens has induced the Editor to ask a representative of the Physio-Medical School of Doctors to give him the benefit of his sentiments on the subject; to this request, he has kindly responded, and the result is subjoined:—

Pneumonia, or inflammation of the lungs, which in fatal cases, is styled by the faculty "*congestion of the lungs*," is, in fact, only "the first stage" of the disorder; there are few who die *from this derangement alone*; the treatment of the disorder still remains—what the faculty please to style a "*quæstio vexata*," *i.e.*, a disputed question; it may be well that all of us, who are liable to be the objects of professional experiments, should have some idea of the forms which they may assume; a recent writer says of the treatment by bleeding:—

"Probably five cases out of six would recover without bleeding; the sixth might die from the lack of it; he is of opinion that mortality has increased since the adoption of the practice of bleeding; he descants on the supposed virtues of tartar emetic, passes from that to antimony, and thence to veratrum viridi; in re-

gard to the latter he speaks of "watching its effects," *i.e.* its tendency to kill; another comforting suggestion which he offers is "cupping between the shoulders," or as an alternative, "a vigorous dose of Epsom salts." Another witness (so to speak), Dr. Chalmers, of St. Mary's and the Locke Hospitals, says—"Consider antimony, mercury (blue mass, calomel) and purgatives as poisons in pneumonia."

A third witness, Dr. Hunter, states that "blood-letting is one of the greatest weakeners," and naively adds "as we can kill thereby."

A fourth witness, Prof. Lobstein, says, "Without blood, there is no heat, no movement in the system; in the blood is the life; he who takes blood from the patient removes not only an organ (*sic*) of life, but a part of life itself."

An essay appeared in the *Canada Lancet*, of August, 1882, which had been read before the Medical Association of Ontario, in which the writer maintains that bleeding is correct practice *especially in pneumonia*, or inflammation of the lungs; the writer cites cases, in which he claims to have performed wonderful cures of that too frequently fatal malady.\*

A sixth witness, Dr. Bennett, of Edinburgh, declares that "Any weakening remedies not only materially extend the period of the disease, but especially prolong the state of convalescence;" "it is easily understood therefore," he adds, "how it happened that the antiphlogistic † treatment (bleeding, prostrating, poisoning) of former days proved so fatal."

An all but infallible course of treatment of pneumonia is propounded in the *Canada Lancet*, of Sept. 1881; Prof. Alfred L. Loomis (quoted from the *New York Medical Record* enquires in the accustomed style "What shall we do? and proceeds to assume that pneumonia is caused by poison; (other authorities are content to acknowledge that it is traceable to "taking cold") the Professor discloses the great secret that opium furnishes the antidote for it! he enlightens us further as to his mode of applying the drug, and says that his rule for the past year has been "to bring his patient under the full influence of it at the outset of the inflammation, and to keep him in that state usually for the first four days of the disorder;" it is not surprising that the Professor should further say—"After this period, the greatest care must be exercised in its use (the use of opium), for now a new danger threatens *viz.* :—paralysis of the bronchi, and consequent accumulation of secretion in the bronchial tubes, which will greatly increase the difficulty of breathing!" Let no pneumatic sufferer despair, for there is still "balm in Gilead" and possibly a "physician there;" "the learned Professor" administers "morphia hypodermically" (under the skin) "during the developing period of the disease."

As we cannot suppose that our readers will be able to reduce the discordant testimony of these witnesses to harmony, we hope to present them with something so uncommon as common-sense views of this subject in our next number: in the meantime they may possibly reflect that death from "congestion of the lungs"—according to the registered cause of death—is less surprising than at first it may appear to be. Possibly it might be instructive to enquire which of the above approved modes of treatment was adopted in the one hundred and fifteen cases which have succumbed to the disorder, or the treatment in the hospitals of Ontario, during the past year; it may be satisfactory to enquirers to observe that the disorder is learnedly described as taking the several forms of "pleuro"—"typho"—and "broncho-pneumonia"

\* As both the Editor of the *Lancet* and the several members of the Medical Association have hitherto yielded the assent involved by maintaining silence on this subject, we may venture to suggest that the cures were probably of such a nature as to result in mourners going about the streets.

† Inflated words are congenial to inflated persons.

## EXTRACTS FROM A TRACT

ENTITLED REMARKS ON "THE MISTAKES OF MOSES."

*By H. L. Hastings.*

I recollect hearing Lord Shaftesbury speak in London, of attending a Costermonger's Exhibition of the donkeys with which they drag about their barrows of provisions and merchandise. He said there were fifty donkeys exhibited, looking as sleek and beautiful as if they had come out of the Queen's stables; and the men told him that every, one of the donkeys had each week, twenty-four consecutive hours of rest, and, as a consequence, they could travel thirty miles a day, with their loads, for six days a week, while donkeys which were driven seven days in the week, could not travel more than fifteen miles a day.

Of course a skeptic would sneer at the idea that divine revelation had anything to do with donkeys; or that donkeys were considered in the law of God. But the Creator knew what was good for a donkey, and so he named the donkey in the commandment: "The seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates." Deut. v. 14. The Lord well knew that a donkey would do more work in a week if he worked six days, than he would if he worked seven. He therefore made provision that the donkey should have his weekly rest.

Whatever opinion men may hold concerning the perpetuity of sabbatic laws in the change of dispensations, man's physical constitution remains unchanged; and every law which has its foundation in the nature of things, is worthy of the most reverent consideration. They who violate the laws of existence must accept the penalties.

It is a curious fact that after man has overworked himself, and become exhausted, from neglect of the appointed times of rest, when he is sinking under disease, and the frantic struggles of nature take the form of fever, this same law of sevens manifests itself in the process of restoration. His fever runs seven days, and then turns; or if nature be not able to recover herself at that point, the struggle goes on for another seven days; and if the fever does not then turn, it must again run seven days. Fevers do not turn on the fourth, fifth or sixth day. All the doctors in creation cannot make fevers turn, as a rule, except at the seventh day. This shows that the law of sevens is so wrought into the constitution of man, that he cannot escape its control. It is a part of himself; and whether he believes it or not, he is still bound by this universal law. The human constitution is like an eight day clock. It needs to be wound up once a week, and the day of rest affords an opportunity of so doing. Any one who will study the constitution of man, will find that this law, dividing human life into periods of one, two, three and four sevens of days, is an universal law, controlling human existence from beginning to end.

It may be well to notice in this connection, that five modes of measuring time by seven occur in two chapters of the book of Leviticus; in the twenty-third chapter, we have a week of days (v. 3), a week of weeks (v. 15), and a week of months (v. 24); in the twenty-fifth, we have a week of years (v. 4), and a week of sevens, "seven times seven years" (v. 8); a sixth mode of reckoning time by seven is found in the seventy years' captivity, and in the seventy weeks of Daniel; see also Is. xxiii. 7, 17; and a seventh mode of reckoning time in periods of seventy times seven (to which the Lord alludes in his conversation with Peter, Matt. xviii. 22), is illustrated by the charts of Sir Edward Denny; seventy times seven, or four hundred and ninety, with the addition of the jubilee years during that period, make up the spans of five hundred years, twelve of which have nearly elapsed since the period known as the creation.

## HOW VACCINATION HAS "STAMPED OUT" SMALLPOX,

IN ENGLAND—Vaccination was made compulsory in 1853, with the following result:—

Deaths from Smallpox in the first decade after the enforcement of

vaccination, 1854 to 1863... ..	33,515
In the second decade, 1864 to 1873... ..	70,458

IN LONDON—The Registrar-General in his Annual Summary for the year 1880, tabulates the smallpox mortality of London for the last 30 years as follows:—

Decades.	Estimated Mean Population.	Smallpox Deaths.
1851-60 ... ..	2,570,489 ... ..	7,150
1861-70 ... ..	3,018,193 ... ..	8,347
1871-80 ... ..	3,466,486 ... ..	15,551

IN SCOTLAND AND IRELAND—

### SMALLPOX DEATHS.

	Scotland.	Ireland.
1870 ... ..	114 ... ..	32
1871 ... ..	1,442 ... ..	665
1872 ... ..	2,446 ... ..	3,248
1873 ... ..	1,126 ... ..	504
1874 ... ..	1,246 ... ..	569

IN SWEDEN—Quoted as the best vaccinated country in the world, there died of Smallpox in 1874-'75—6,082, out of a population of four millions.

IN BAVARIA—Famous for compulsion—of 30,742, officially recorded cases of Smallpox in 1871, 29,429 were supplied by the vaccinated.

"I am strongly opposed to Compulsory Vaccination."—HERBERT SPENCER.

### AGUE.

We learn, on good authority, that ague has in many cases been cured by what is known and advertised as Indian Blood Syrup.

The man who has been sitting by a corpse, on the assumption that the deceased was in a trance, is more of a knave than a fool; he however possesses the negative merit of not slaying one in a hundred of those who are killed according to law and ignorant tradition.

Dr. Foote's *Health Monthly* says:—"Some of the surgical instruments found in the buried ruins of the ancient city of Pompeii, now in the collection of antiquities in the museum of Naples, show that the surgeons of that time were provided with many of the most important instruments now in use." The *Lancet* remarks that the number of instruments found in one house there will bear comparison with those possessed by the average practitioner of the present time.

 In the event of any irregularities occurring in the delivery of this publication, the Editor requests that he may be addressed respecting it.

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