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MEDICAL CRITICISM.

No. 12.

MARCH 31, 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.

“ FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PROVINCIAL BOARD OF HEALTH
OF ONTARIO,
BEING FOR THE YEAR 1882.

Printed by order of the Legislative Assembly.”

With that *disinterestedness* which has led the Medical Profession to keep a representative garrison on duty in the Legislative Assembly, for *the sole purpose* of watching over the health-interests of the public, and to employ a detective officer for the purpose of prosecuting all Quacks except those who are perceptible in their mirrors—With the like *self-sacrificing disinterestedness*, the representatives of this noble (?) profession induced the Government to introduce a Bill in the session of 1871-72, with a view to establish a Provincial Board of Health for Ontario, a Board which is to maintain intimate relations with all Local Boards which, under the Act, (36 Vic. cap. 48) are already in existence, or may yet be organized. This august Board has now issued its first Report, the “various diverse subjects” of which it has arranged under eight heads, in order that the contents may “appear more interesting and more readily attainable than if they were loosely arranged in chronological order throughout.” We hope no one will suggest that *the heads of the Board* appear (by their diction) to have been “loosely arranged”; we think it probable that ourselves may find some occupation for the said heads; we observe that they commence their report by arguing “the necessity for” their existence, and they quote one Dr. Henry I. Bowditch, who is said to have delivered *the centennial discourse* (a discourse presumably delivered every hundred years) on Public Hygiene, before the International Medical Congress of 1876. This gentleman relieved himself of the following oracular utterance, on the occasion. “*Theoretically* Public Hygiene in the most important matter any community can discuss, for upon it, in its perfection, depend all the powers, moral, intellectual, and physical, of a state.” The “loosely arranged” heads proceed to plaster the powers who have constituted the Board, in the following style.—“Recognizing a growing belief on the part of the people in the axiomatic truth of this (the foregoing) statement, carefully appreciating the opinions of the general public, and being actuated by an earnest and solicitous concern for the welfare of the people over whom it has been called to rule (here it is obvious that the “loosely arranged” forget their “D. V.”), the Government last session introduced a Bill, and the public representatives in the Legislature (unhappy dupes) agreed to its clauses, establishing a “Provincial Board of Health for Ontario, &c.” The subject of “Immigrant Inspection” is that which

the Board puts in the forefront of its Report, as one which is to furnish matter for "permanent discussion" between the Dominion Government, the Provincial Government, that of the United States, and the "loosely arranged" heads already mentioned. It is well the several Governments have awoke to the necessity for preventing emigrants being sent to this country in the filthy condition they have been accustomed to present, for we have a lively recollection of remonstrating with the Hon. A. McKellar on that subject, nearly ten years ago, and being informed (after having made some dozen calls at his office) that—"we left the subject to the Dominion Government, and to the Imperial Government." There is reason to hope therefore (according to the testimony of this newly appointed Board) that the Government has concluded that it is time certain measures were adopted in relation to "Immigrant Inspection." The Committee of public safety (which already includes three Physicians) is of opinion that it is also time to entertain the question of *Migrant Inspection*; a question which involves the consideration whether the treatment the sick receive at the hands of many who profess to heal, be or be not such as results in their *migrating to their graves* at a rate which admits of reduction. It is a note-worthy fact that these witnesses testify of themselves that they are "high in the scale of scientific ability," and in the same breath they state that the rate of mortality of this Province exceeds that of the city of Geneva, by three per thousand; one would not expect such a Board to inform us that the deaths in Ontario have increased from 39,000 in 1878, to 44,000, in 1880. For the present, we must decline being led by any such will-o'-the-wisp as that of the consideration of "undrained lands, and lands drowned by dams and rivers," which are alleged to "create widespread epidemics of malaria, and other diseases too extensive for local municipal action"—we prefer not to be led off scent by "the dams," and contemplate, on the contrary, devoting all possible attention to *the sires* of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario—to that body which habitually grants *indulgences* styled licenses to gentlemen who are as remote from themselves, and from each other (in their principles and practice of medicine) as the East is from the West. To our thinking it does not require an exceptional amount of logic to conclude that if the Allopaths whose number preponderates (as do the numbers of Roman Catholics in Christendom) in the Medical Profession—if the Allopaths be right, the Homœopaths &c., are wrong; they who are right therefore license those who are wrong to practise at the cost of the health and life of the community; the same argument will of course apply equally to the Hydropaths, Eclectics, Medical Botanists, Electricians, Magnetists, &c.; we apprehend that while the majority of the medical-profession is manœuvring by means of its Legislative *garrison*, its detectives, and its Boards of Health; while it is seeking to concentrate our attention on intangible "malaria," it behoves the community to at least divide their attention between *the undrained lands* and those who too often drain their pockets, their health, and their lives.

DIPHTHERIA.

We learn that about eight years ago, when diphtheria was deplorably fatal in the neighbourhood of Collingwood, the doctors lost every patient, and a young woman, a school teacher, who blew sulphur into the throats of certain sufferers from the disorder, saved every one of them; the doctors, no doubt, said with regard to their patient, "We have a law, and by our law he ought to die;" we trust that they so far protected the neighbourhood of Collingwood against quackery as to prosecute the school-teacher.

A journal has been started in New York styled *The Undertakers' Assistant*. Physicians will necessarily patronize the journal.

DR. BUSHMAN WRITES AS FOLLOWS, IN THE *MEDICAL TIMES*.

"Our présent *successful* plan of cure—for this undoubtedly cannot be made the subject of a difference of opinion—is, I apprehend, due to our general *non-interference* with the course of nature in the succession of morbid actions, save—and then only—when we see them *running on rapidly to a fatal result*. The modern triumph of our art is more in the happy forbearance exemplified in our *negative* treatment than in the positive success of any heroic remedy. By not obeying that almost instinctive impulse that urges us to interfere with the progress of natural, though morbid actions—by eschewing the *nimia diligentia Medici*—and by having, above all, enforced a most strict system of hygiene, I think the science of medicine has attained the present *high place* it holds among the beneficial arts of life."

Brief Translation of the foregoing.—A long illness, a long attendance, and a long bill. By and bye men may possibly be found willing to pay for competence and speedy cure ; meanwhile

"— opinion, an omnipotence, whose veil
Mantles the earth with darkness, until right
And wrong are accidents ; and men grow pale
Lest their own judgment should become too bright."

RARE CASE OF "OPEN CONFESSION."

A physician of Chicago, in filling up a certificate of death, has, possibly through inadvertence written his name in the space reserved for "Causes of Death."

"To abandon usurped power, to renounce lucrative error, are sacrifices which the virtue of *individuals* has on some occasions offered to Truth ; but from any *society of men*, no such effort can be expected. Reformation never proceeds from themselves, but is always forced on them by some foreign hand."—(*Robertson's History of Scotland.*)

When a doctor is caught digging up a corpse, they put him in prison. It seems hard to punish a man for digging where he planted.—(From *The World.*)

THE DOCTORS AND THE UNDERTAKERS.

To the Editor of the *Chrono-Thermalist*.

SIR,—You evidently think it wrong in medical men to take per-centage from Undertakers for the recommendation of a funeral ; and you also think it wrong to have "an understanding with the Druggist and with each other." Why sir, the practice in all these cases is *universal*. The custom has been settled for ages—business is business, and every man of sense will make the most he can of his calling. You sir ; and the Editor of *The Times* may say or do what you please, the Profession is too strong for you. If the Medical man cannot recommend the undertaker, the nurse *would*—and she *does* sometimes, contrary to all *etiquette*. As to "recommending Chemists and themselves," do not Barristers and Attorneys do the same ? You talk about Medical Ethics—Medical Ethics indeed ! When a medical man can get THIRTY per-cent. for recommending a rich man's funeral, do you think he will allow you, or your friend the Editor of *The Times* to chouce him out of it ; We are too strong for you, Mr. Chrono-Thermalist ! Yours, A PHYSICIAN.

When the people cease to brag about enlightenment, and become enlightened, it may be that the "strength" of Physicians of the unguaranteed order will decrease.—ED.

"Is it Dr. Terry? Ah, yis, sur, shure it's the doctor that is a foine man entirely."

"But is he a good doctor?"

"Well, sur, it's not fur the loikes av me fur to be givin' an opinion on a medical man; but I can say this much for him; I was wanst at death's dure, an' it was to Dr. Terry, no less, that I owe me loife."

"How was that? What was the matter with you?"

"Ye see, sur, I had a complication of diseases, an' two other doctors did be workin' on me fur some time, an' I was in a moighty bad way, an' the two doctors they gave me up, an' wint away, an' then me friends they sint for Dr. Terry, but he had another engagement, *an' he didn't come.*"—(Texas Siftings.)

"TASTE AND TRY," NO. IV.

Bryonia is the remedy for so-called "Bilious-Complaints," where the tongue is yellow or brown, with more or less sick-headache. In colds, caused by getting wet, with aching pains all over, if the tongue is clean, give Aconite, but if it is yellow or brown, Bryonia will be found of greater value, particularly if used immediately. For Cough, with stitching pains in the chest or sides, as in Pleurisy, it is considered the specific. In Rheumatism, give Aconite first, if there is high fever; then when the fever has been subdued, should the pains shift about from one joint to another, give Bryonia every two hours in alternation with Pulsatilla till the pains are quite gone, the tongue is clean, and the urine light and clear.

SIMPLE REMEDIES.

Common baking soda is the best of all remedies in cases of scalds and burns. It may be used on the surface of the burned place, either dry or wet. When applied promptly the sense of relief is magical. It seems to withdraw the heat, and with it the pain, and the healing process soon commences. It is the best application for eruptions caused by poisonous ivy and other poisonous plants, as also for bites and stings of insects. Owing to colds, overfatigue, anxiety and various other causes the urine is often scanty, highly colored, and more or less loaded with phosphates, which settle to the bottom of the vessel on cooling. As much soda as can be dipped up on a ten cent piece, dissolved in half a glass of cold water and drank every three hours, will soon remedy the trouble and cause relief to the oppression that always exists from interruption of the natural flow of urine. This treatment should not be continued more than twenty-four hours.

With a specimen copy of "THE CRITIC"—a sixteen paged journal—in course of preparation, and the work of organizing "The Critic Publishing Company," at the same time, the Editor finds himself obliged to request the indulgence of the subscribers to his present journal, in regard to the suspension of their publication, until he is in a position to embody them in "THE CRITIC," and at the same time provide his subscribers with far more literary pabulum than he originally undertook to furnish. The Editor has decided to introduce an article from the pen of Prof. Goldwin Smith, in each issue of "THE CRITIC."