

Correspondence.

Editor Maritime Medical News :

DEAR SIR—In your issue of October, page 356, you ask as to the prevailing epidemic: "What has been done by the Provincial Board of Health in this matter. Has this body asked the local boards to report and instructed them on the best methods known to stamp out the disease? If so, has the Provincial Board enlightened the profession where cases of smallpox exist?"

In answer I would say that by the Public Health Act, Chapter 102, (1900) Clause 35, (d) the Provincial Board is to be notified, etc., and this has not been done, except in a few instances; there is as yet no official knowledge that there is smallpox in Halifax. Clause 31 is similarly allowed to go by default. Clause 35, (f) is not half carried out, and this the more as so many towns and municipalities have not carried out Clause 33.

The Provincial Board of Health issued a special circular on smallpox covering the ground you refer to, and a copy was sent to every medical man in the province; to every health officer as far as known, and a number of copies to each municipal and town clerk for distribution to the town clerks, as they alone so far as I know are aware of those who compose the local health boards. Along with these circulars was sent a copy of the Health Law of the province, a statistical blank for the ready and facile report of disease, adopting the Bertillon system which is the one now most generally used, and as well, an explanatory letter, and a special notification in reference to vaccination. In another cover I send you copies of the literature above referred to. Hence, I think you will see that the Provincial Board of Health has not been remiss in its duties. I only wish so much could be said for the parties of the other boards. Unless the Provincial Board of Health receives notice regularly from the local boards and health officers, it is handicapped, and this the more when Clause 33 is not carried out.

To the different health officers so far as known, reports have been sent advising them as to the smallpox epidemic, and a great many

copies of the circulars have been sent to every locality where smallpox has been heard of.

I get many letters asking if vaccination be compulsory (it is not); and on kindred subjects. The secretary of the Provincial Board of Health has had many trips to different localities, and met and advised with the Municipal Councils, Local Boards of Health and Health Officers in the present epidemic, and is always ready to assist in any way in carrying out our health laws, but he must get reliable and regular reports from local authorities.

Yours truly,

A. P. REID,

Secretary Provincial Board of Health.

Tumorous.

Or the woes of a titled invalid in search of an appropriate specialist.

A tumor he developed on
A spot that's quite neglected;
No specialist for just that point
He anywhere detected.

So curiously was it placed,
That, search from toe to crown,
You saw it not when he stood up,
Still less when he sat down.

From day to day the swelling grew,
So vast became that tumor,
You could not say which was the growth
And which Sir Francis Boomer.

And so at last it finished him,
Despite his numerous staff,
He explained the cause of death
In his epitaph:

"My ailment could not treated be,
The times were out of joint;
There was no specialist upon
That Perineal point.

"Some doctors find their work before,
And others theirs behind;
But none devotes attention to
The spot which I've defined."

— "J. B.," in *St. George's Hosp. Gazette*.