

this arrangement, be confined to that Port alone, but as some of his time must be given to a supervision of the out-door offices, &c., I have allotted him a Clerk at a salary of £200. As diligent watchfulness is the only means of checking the attempt to land goods clandestinely, I have estimated for nearly as large an out-door establishment at Saint John as is at present required by the Collector of the Customs; and I do not think that the safety of the Revenue or justice to the legal importer will admit of any further reduction in this branch of the service. His Excellency will perceive that I have made the Out-Bays more expensive than is estimated by the Collectors of the Customs; but agreeably to His Excellency's instructions, I have taken into consideration the extension of the warehousing system throughout the Province causing an increase of upwards of £1000 per annum, which additional expense need not be incurred until the merchants and traders at the several places evince a desire to profit by this facility to trade.

The whole amount of the Schedule now submitted by me for the collection, protection and disbursement of the Revenues is only £9,072 10 0 currency.

The existing expenditure, exclusive of the proposed addition for warehousing at the several Out-Bays, stands thus:—

Customs paid by the Province, Sterling			
Dollars at 4s. 2d.,	£4,250	0 0
Difference of Exchange, one-fifth,		850	0 0
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Currency,		£5,100	0 0
Present Provincial Establishment, ...		5,100	0 0
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Total in Currency,		£10,200	0 0
To which add the amount now estimated			
for expense of Warehousing at the			
Out-Bays,	1,000	0 0
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		£11,200	0 0

Thus the present proposed Schedule will leave upwards of £2000 currency towards such portion of Salaries as should be paid by the Province to the Customs Officers that H. M. Government may deem requisite on account of the Registry and Navigation Laws.

On the 17th instant, I submitted a letter from Mr. Carmichael, Tide Surveyor at this Port, respecting the necessity for a new schooner of larger dimensions than the one hitherto used; the cost of the vessel now proposed will be about three hundred and fifty pounds.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

B. ROBINSON, P. T.

The Hon. J. S. Saunders, Prov. Secretary.

INHALATION OF ETHER IN SURGERY.

The Lancet, January 16 and 23.—*Medical Gazette*, January 22.—*Medical Times*, January 16 and 23.

The practicability and utility of the American discovery of the employment of the vapour of ether in surgical operations, is no longer a matter of doubt. Since our first notice of the subject, hundreds of operations have been performed in this country without pain. We would point out, incidentally, the very different nature of the evidence on which we pronounce the verdict of success, from that of the testimony brought forward to support the claim of Mesmerism to be regarded as a means of making surgical operations painless. We allude to this, because we see that those who still amuse themselves with mesmeric fantasies regard the state induced by the action of ether as analogous to the mesmeric sleep. Surely, it must by this time be evident to all but prejudiced observers, that had there been a particle of truth in the allegation of painless operation under the influence of mesmeric sleep, medical professors would most gladly have availed themselves of its services.

To return, however, to the ether. The inhalation of gasses as a means of treating disease, is, it appears, not new in the medical profession. It was carried to a great extent by Dr. Beddoes; but has been comparatively little employed in the recent practice of medicine and surgery. That such gasses produce various powerful effects on the nervous system has also been well known; and to this day it is a common practice in our chemical lecture rooms to administer, by way of amusement to the pupils, nitrous oxide, or laughing gas, on account of its influence on the nervous system. It has also been known for a length of time, that the vapour of ether, when taken into the system, produces an effect upon the nervous system which has been stated to be analogous to the action of the laughing gas. This, however, is now seen to be a mistake; as the amusing influence of the laughing gas is found to arise out of its action on that system of nerves which supply the muscles of the body—occasioning an increase of their activity; so that persons who have breathed it have a tendency to running, jumping, fighting, laughing and other motions of the muscular system. The action of ether, on the other hand, is chiefly manifested by its influence on those nerves which are devoted to the function of sensation.

For the application of the vapour of ether to the human system for the purpose of producing insensibility, we are indebted to Doctors Morton and Jackson, of Boston, in the United States; and we believe we may congratulate these gentlemen on having made the most important discovery which has been contributed to medicine since that of vaccination by Jenner. The medical journals quoted at the head of this article report a large number of cases which sufficiently attest the value of this agent—not only in the minor operations of surgery, such as the extraction of teeth,—but also the most tedious and distressing, and those involving the greatest amount of danger from the shock given to the nervous system. Mr. Lawrence gives an account of one which he characterizes as “one of the most painful surgical operations,”—and which consisted in extirpating the eye-ball for the cure of malignant disease. This was performed with so little pain, that the patient, after recovering from the effects of the ether, did not even know that the operation had commenced.

At the same time that the success of this application has been far greater than could have been anticipated, there have, however, been failures; which prove the necessity of attention on the part of those who employ it. The mode of administering the ether hitherto adopted has been that of introducing into the lungs, by means of a tube, the vapour of sulphuric ether mixed with atmospheric air. Now, although at first sight this would seem a very simple process, there are several points which appear to require attention. In the first place, the apparatus may be so imperfectly constructed, or persons may so mismanage it, that too large or too small a quantity of vapour will be supplied to the system. In the first of these cases, the patient becomes choked—in the last, he does not take a sufficient quantity to produce the effect sought. In the second place, atmospheric air becomes saturated with very different quantities of the vapour of ether at different temperatures. Thus, 100 cubic inches of air saturated with ether at 40°, contains 24 cubic inches of ether; but the same quantity of air at 70°, contains 49 cubic inches of the same. This demands attention: but the temperature of the room for apparatus may be easily ascertained, and regulated with a little care. Another point which may interfere with the action of ether, is the presence of alcohol. Ether is formed from the decomposition of alcohol by sulphuric acid; and unless great care be exercised in its preparation, this substance will be present. The effect of the vapour of alcohol is very different from that of ether—if it be not in the early stages of its action of a directly opposite nature.—A fourth point demanding caution we