

diately, patient went into convulsions, and, despite every effort, died! Autopsy, in each case, showed intense lung congestion.

Very recently, two deaths from cocaine—within a fortnight of each other—have been noted and are now first reported.

On the last day of last month, a young woman visited a "complexion artist"—so called—in Chicago, to have a facial blemish removed. Sham electricity was used—it being, really, a dummy battery, one sponge of which, saturated with a strong solution of carbolic acid, was held to the affected part, with the result of causing great pain. To relieve this, a 4 oz. solution of cocaine was freely applied. In a few minutes, the woman became excited, said she felt strange, walked to a window, and fell dead! No autopsy.

Four days ago—Friday last—a man, aged 26, entered the office of a Jersey City physician, to be operated upon for a rectal fistula. Twenty minims of a 4 oz. cocaine solution were injected hypodermically, for anæsthesia. No effect ensuing in 10 minutes, 20 minims more were injected. In 3 minutes, the man became unconscious and convulsed. One minute later he was dead! No autopsy.

The evidence to prove cocaine a poison is now so ample, that no excuse will avail to exonerate the doctor who, not heeding the lesson taught by the gruesome record, fails to use it with the care its toxic energy demands.

It is a drug peerless for good in certain conditions; but its power for ill must never be lost sight of, if one would conserve the best interests of those on whom it may seem wise to use it.

Prospect Place  
near Prospect Park.

## Society Proceedings.

### THE MONTREAL MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

*Stated Meeting, June 29th, 1894.*

JAMES BELL, M.D., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

Dr. BELL presented the following specimens:

(1) A large concretion which he had recently removed from the bowel in a case of appendicitis. The patient was 47 years of age, and had a bad history of recurrent attacks at intervals of three or four months for the last 21 years. The last attack occurred eight weeks before coming under observation, and it was then for the first time that he noticed any mass in the abdominal wall. This mass was in the situation of the appendix, and about the size of a hen's egg; it was very hard and very clearly adherent to the abdominal wall, was quite tender to the touch, and on walking he suffered a dragging pain. Operation was advised and accepted by the patient, and was carried out in the usual way. The incision was made to the inner side of the mass, which was then carefully dissected away from the abdominal wall to which it was attached by very firm adhesions. The free surfaces of the cæcum and the lower end of the ileum were found to be adherent, and in the adhesions were enclosed in a hard mass and the base of the appendix. The free end of the appendix projected about an inch and a half. On separating the ileum and the cæcum, it was found that the greater part of the dilated proximal end of the appendix had been absorbed (or destroyed by ulceration or gangrene), and that the concretion communicated with the lumen of the bowel on each side. The appendix and the concretion were removed and the two portions of bowel re-united by suture. The concretion, which was about the size of a horse-chestnut, had been submitted to Dr. Ruttan for chemical examination. The patient made an uninterrupted recovery. The case, Dr. Bell thought, was of interest as illustrating one of the unusual and complicated conditions one may meet with on operating for appendicitis.

(2) *Sarcoma of the Upper Third of the Tibia.*—The specimen had been removed that day from a girl 23 years old, with a tubercular history. The tumor was first noticed two and a half years ago, but emaciation had only become marked during the past eight months. The amputation was performed in the middle third of the thigh.

*Chloroform Accident.*—Dr. BELL next gave the history of a chloroform accident which occurred recently in his hospital practice, and which came very near adding one more victim to the fatalities of chloroform anæsthesia. On