

in the abdomen. The heart showed endocarditis, with vegetations over the valves. The uterus showed signs of septic endometritis. There was also a diphtheritic-looking membrane in the cervix and on the inner sides of the labia. There were infarcts in the kidneys and spleen, but no pyæmic abscesses.

DR. J. C. CAMERON read a paper entitled

*Notes on the Determination and Causation of Sex.*

By P. W. P. MATHEWS, LL.D., M.R.C.S.E., Etc.,

Dominion Coroner for the North-West Territories and Medical Officer of the Hudson Bay Company, etc.

of which the following is an abstract:—

From earliest times, men have been anxious to learn the sex of the foetus in utero, and for this purpose many quaint methods have been devised. The following aphorisms enunciated by Hippocrates are to this day believed and practised by midwives in the East:

1. If the child be a male, the mother will have a good color; but if a female, a bad color.

2. The male foetus is usually seated on the right side, the female on the left.

The ancient astrologers directed a drop or two of the mother's milk to be squeezed out upon a clean knife or glass, or upon the finger-nail. If the milk spreads about, the child is a female; if it remains still, the child is a male.

M. Venette, the author of a popular treatise in France, directed that if a son is desired the generative act should be performed when the wind is in the north. Others held that the right testicle secretes female sperm and the left male; others that the right ovary discharges male ovules and the left female, and directed the woman to lie on the right side during coitus if a male child is wanted. This belief still lingers among some of the Hudson Bay Indians.

Pythagoras thought that a vapor descended during coitus from the brain and nerves of the embryo, the grosser tissues being derived from the blood and humors found in the uterus.

Empedocles affirmed that a portion of the embryo was contained in the sperm and a portion in the germ, the child being formed by the union of the two.