

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

October 31st, 1879.

(Omitted from November number of RECORD.)

Dr. Wilkins gave a demonstration on the rabbit, showing the cardio-inhibitory influence of the pneumogastric nerve. Tracings were taken by means of a mercurial manometer, which was connected with a cannula inserted into the carotid artery of the animal. First a normal arterial tracing was taken, the left pneumogastric was then divided and its peripheral end stimulated by means of a DuBois-Reymond induction coil, in consequence of which there was a fall in blood-pressure and slowing of the action of the heart. Four milligrammes of atropine were subsequently injected into jugular vein, and the peripheral end of nerve again stimulated without any alteration of action of heart, thus demonstrating the paralytic effect of the poison on the terminal filaments of pneumogastric nerve in the heart.

Explanatory remarks were made by Dr. Wilkins with reference to this inhibitory action of pneumogastric nerve, also to similar action of some other nerves.

A demonstration was also given of respiratory tracing, both before and after cutting both nerves. The animal was slightly under the influence of chloroform during these experiments.

Subsequently Dr. Wilkins attempted another experiment on a curarised rabbit, which was kept alive by artificial respiration, but did not succeed, in consequence of the length of time that elapsed (three hours) after the administration of the poison, the dose being slightly in excess.

Involuntary muscle was paralysed including, of course, the muscular coat of the arteries, as well as the voluntary muscles which only are paralysed by a smaller dose.

The registering apparatus made use of for demonstration was a kymograph of Dr. Wilkin's own device, the motor-power being a small water engine, which also kept up artificial respiration.

MONTREAL, Nov. 14, 1879.

A regular meeting of the Society was held this evening, the President, Dr. R. P. Howard, in the chair.

There were present Drs. R. P. Howard, Henry Howard, Trenholme, Osler, Loverin, Spencer, Bell, Ross, Kerry, Wm. MacDonald, Kennedy, McConnell, F. W. Campbell, John Reddy, Roddick, Wilkins, Bessey, Major, Blackader, Imrie, Brodie and Proudfoot; visitor, Dr. Hill, of London, England.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Gurd was balloted for, and unanimously elected a member.

Dr. Osler exhibited a case of fatal perforation in typhoid fever in a hospital patient, who had had very high temperature from the first, ranging from 105° to 108° before death.

Dr. R. P. Howard drew the attention of the Society to the experience of the Basle Hospital as to the great importance of putting patients to bed as early as possible in typhoid fever, the mortality being very much greater amongst those persons who took to their bed late than amongst those who did so early. The experience of the Montreal General Hospital was confirmatory of this statement.

The second specimen was from a child who had died in the Infants' Home, Guy street. The case had been considered one of membranous croup, and tracheotomy had been performed, the operation being followed by immediate relief, but died on the following day. At the post-mortem several small patches were seen on the tonsils and on the epiglottis extending into the trachea. There was no membrane immediately in the region of the tube, but it extended beyond this into the bronchi. Dr. Osler was unable to obtain any of the urine. The lungs were pneumonic, and the kidneys in a condition of cloudy degeneration.

Dr. Ross said he had seen this case, and was of the opinion that it was croup at the time; but, after seeing the exudation on the tonsils, he was not so sure that the case was not one complicated with diphtheria.

Whilst strongly believing that there is a difference between the two diseases, Dr. F. W. Campbell said that the result of the operation in this case went to strengthen the experience of all in Montreal that tracheotomy cases of true croup were generally fatal, while many cases of diphtheria recovered after the operation.

The President remarked that the question,