

THE

# MONTREAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

Vol. XXXI.

OCTOBER, 1902.

No. 10.

## Original Communications.

### PRELIMINARY NOTE UPON EMPLOYMENT OF AN ANTI-STREPTOCOCCUS SERUM IN SEVERE CASES OF SCARLET FEVER.\*

BY

GEO. A. CHARLTON, M.D.,

Fellow in Pathology, McGill University; late Resident Physician, Montreal Civic Hospital for Contagious Diseases.

[From the J. H. R. Molson Pathological Laboratory, McGill University.]

In the number of the *British Medical Journal* for Oct. 4th, just to hand, there appears (p. 1086) a paragraph upon a communication by Dr. Paul Moser, of Vienna, to the meeting of the German Naturforscherversammlung held recently at Carlsbad, dealing with the results which, in his hands, have followed the employment of an anti-streptococcus serum in the cure of scarlet fever.

His serum, it would appear, had been produced in the Sero-therapeutic Institute of the Rudolph Hospital under the superintendence of Dr. Paltauf, Professor of Pathology in the University of Vienna, by injecting horses with the products of cultures of streptococci obtained from the blood of scarlatinal patients. The streptococci had been isolated by him from the blood of 63 out of 99 children who had succumbed to the disease. The "serum has been used clinically since November, 1901, in about 84 cases, with the result, that the mortality among 400 cases of the disease in the St. Anne's Hospital has been reduced one-half. Only the more severe cases in the hospital were treated with the serum on account of the difficulty in obtaining a sufficient supply. All of the children, who were treated within three days of infection, recovered; their condition underwent a striking and rapid improvement, and the pyrexia in many cases greatly abated. So far the

\* Read before the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society, October 17th, 1902.