

RUPTURE OF HEART.

(Reported by Dr. Cameron.)

J. L., aged 36, an habitual drunkard from early life, was admitted to the Hospital on November the 26th, suffering from an acute attack of alcoholism. He was extremely shaky and cyanotic, but not constantly delirious. His pulse was small, frequent, and irregular, and my clinical clerk, Mr. Logan, reported a systolic apical murmur, assigned to mitral regurgitation. He was confined to bed, placed on a milk diet, and given tr. ferri. mur. et tinc. capsici, in moderate doses, at frequent intervals, together with bromide of potash, in half-drachm doses, at bedtime. He went on fairly well for a couple of days, but on the third day, during the absence of the nurse from the ward, he got out of bed to pass his urine, and while in the act of micturition, he fell down upon the floor. He was immediately lifted upon the bed, but in the course of a couple of minutes expired. The consent of the friends to an autopsy could not be obtained, and so the heart was hastily surreptitiously removed. The pericardium was found filled with blood, and on removal the heart presented the rupture of the right ventricle seen in the specimen. On testing the valves, it was found that the pulmonary and aortic valves were thoroughly competent. Owing to the position of the rupture, it was difficult to be certain about the tricuspid, but the outer segment of the mitral valve was very considerably contracted and crippled in its action. The other organs could not be examined.

It was said by some one that the patient had stated, after admission to the Hospital, that a doctor had told him 14 years ago that his heart was affected.

Frequency of location of heart rupture—Elléance's statistics: L. V., 23; R. V., 7; L. A., 3; R. A., 2. Olivier's: L. V., 34; R. V., 8; L. A., 3; R. A., 2.

In Kashmere, where there is no vaccination, the mortality from small-pox is frightful. The history of twenty-five families was recently taken, in which it appeared that out of 190 persons born, exactly 100 died of small-pox. All the others, except two children, had had the disease.

Correspondence.

LONDON LETTER.

(From our own Correspondent.)

London is growing to be a city of considerable importance, commercially, numerically, and medically, and perhaps a few notes from this district might interest some of your numerous readers. Our population, including the suburbs, is certainly over thirty-five thousand, and the number of medical men more than keeps pace with the increase of people. Situated as we are, in the midst of such a rich agricultural district, we cherish the hope of becoming an important inland city and medical centre. Already we have a hospital containing over one hundred beds, which attracts patients in considerable numbers from the surrounding districts, and is fast growing in popularity. The present genial and enterprising Superintendent, Dr. Belton, seems to be imbued with the spirit of his work, and determined to place the institution under his charge in the front rank in regard to excellency of management. Although only a short time in charge, there are plenty of indications to show that we have got the right man in the right place.

The training school for nurses is supplying what is much needed, viz., a class of nurses skilled in more than the culinary art, able to appreciate important changes and symptoms, and thus give valuable assistance to the physician in charge.

The amount of valuable clinical material furnished by the hospital has induced the medical men of the city to found a medical school in connection with the Western University. Such enterprises are rarely born with a silver spoon in their mouths. Nevertheless, their efforts have been very successful, and the London Medical School is now an assured success.

The Western University Medical School dinner was a grand success. Nearly one hundred sat down to a spread which did justice to the skill of the caterer, Mr. Moore, of the Tecumseh House. Among the many excellent speeches was that of Dr. Tye, of Chatham. In his usual happy manner he expressed his sympathy with the medical student, and said