

quent operation in a very fatal manner.—*N. Y. Medical Record.*

STATISTICS IN THIRTY-TWO CONSECUTIVE OVARIOTOMIES.—During the year 1881, Dr. John Homans, of Boston, has undertaken to operate upon ovarian tumors on thirty-five different occasions. In three of them exploratory incisions were made, and further operative procedures abandoned. These patients all subsequently recovered. Of the thirty-two cases, twenty-nine recovered. The tumors varied in weight from five to forty-two and one-half pounds. In twelve, adhesions existed. Among the successful operations was one upon a lady seventy-three years of age.—*N. Y. Med. Record.*

INCONTINENCE OF URINE IN CHILDREN.—Dr. Janeway, in the *N. Y. Medical Record* says, the combination of ergot, belladonna, and iodide of iron, proves more useful for incontinence of urine in children than either of the drugs alone, or than any other combination which has been tried.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

OUR MEDICAL TARIFF ASSAILED BY A COUNTY COURT JUDGE.

GRATUITOUS INSULT TO THE PROFESSION.

DEAR SIR,—I send you a short history of a rather unique case in order that those who meet with similar cases may benefit by this one, and not allow the treatment of it by our Division Court Judge to become a precedent. The case is as follows:—In the spring of 1880, Dr. Clarke, of this town, and I were asked by a solicitor, on behalf of members of a family, to provide them with a joint certificate containing an opinion of their father's competency to take charge of his affairs. We did so. The aged father was, previous to this and some time afterwards, under my care. Dr. Clarke received his fee from a member of the family shortly after rendering his services. I received mine—six dollars—one dollar for mileage, in due time from the solicitor for the estate. Nearly three

months after the certificate referred to was given, another member of the family asked me if I could furnish him with a certificate such as I had given the estate. I told him I could not give him a copy as I did not keep one, but that I could furnish him with a similar certificate. He called afterwards with a brother, and asked for a certificate to be furnished by Dr. Clarke and myself. He called again and got it. I rendered him an account of five dollars on three separate occasions, after which he called on me and denied any responsibility for payment, stating that he had been acting for his brother, and asked why I did not send it into the estate. I placed the account in a collector's hands, and he sued it in the Division Court on March 1st. inst., Judge Jones presiding. After hearing the facts of the case, the Judge did not question defendant's responsibility in the matter, but remarked that the services rendered in giving the second certificate were not equal to those of the first, and consequently reduced the account to three dollars, notwithstanding a legalized tariff was placed in his hands which permits us to make a charge of from five to ten dollars for the services rendered. I had charged the lowest. The defendant at no time, in or out of Court, in my hearing, objected to the largeness of the account. From the history of the patient recorded in my note-book, and the knowledge in my possession as his medical adviser, I was enabled to do my part in drawing up both certificates, which were similar. Wherein do the services differ? Take it for granted the services were not the same, it was not for the Judge to say what was a reasonable charge. That was settled for him by the tariff placed in his hands, and the Ontario Medical Act, of which two sections I transcribe:—

XXXV. Every person registered under the provision of this Act shall be entitled, according to his qualification or qualifications, to practice medicine, surgery, or midwifery, or any of them, as the case may be, in the Province of Ontario, and to demand and recover in any Court of Law, with full costs of suit, reasonable charges for professional aid, advice, and visits, and the cost of any medicine or other medical or surgical appliances rendered or supplied by him to his patients.