

ation was followed by an impaired mental condition that lasted for several weeks. From these cases, followed by an improved mental condition. We draw our own conclusions. The operation in skilled hands has not resulted in any untoward symptom, and a recourse to it in the early stages of the disease, with subsequent treatment, may afford more permanent relief.

ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

EDITOR CANADA LANCET.

SIR.—As will be seen from a reference to the advertising columns the date of the 13th annual meeting has been postponed from the 7th and 8th to the 21st and 22nd of June. The Executive has been led to this step for the reason that the American Medical Association holds its annual meeting in Milwaukee on the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th June. Another large gathering of physicians will take place in Omaha during the week previous, in connection with the National Association of Railroad Surgeons. Neither of these meetings would interfere with the annual meeting of the Ontario Medical Association under ordinary circumstances, but this year a special effort is being made to organize a large excursion for medical men to the Chicago Exhibition in connection with one or both of the above gatherings, and the railroad authorities are offering persuasive inducements in railroad fares. The Executive in consequence thinks that it would best advance the interests of this Association by postponing the annual meeting two weeks beyond its regular date. The attention of the members is drawn to the change, in order that they may make their plans for the summer in such a way as to allow them to attend this meeting.

D. J. GIBB WISHART,
Gen. Sec.

Toronto, March, 1893.

SOME REMARKS ON THE TREATMENT OF PAIN AND INSOMNIA.—According to Dourdoufi (*Le Méd. and Surg. Rep.*), pain and insomnia are morbid phenomena of much importance, especially from the point of view of their practical significance. They exist in the clinical picture of a large number of diseases both acute and chronic. In

the chronic diseases the issue of the pathological process depends largely upon the intensity of these symptoms and the possibility of limiting their deleterious influence. A rational medication of pain and insomnia, based upon the recognition of their pathogeny facilitates the rôle of the physician in his struggle with the disease. Dourdoufi calls attention to a simple method of treating pain in general, and cephalgia especially.

1. In the case of cephalgia if it does not depend upon organic lesions of the nervous system, we have in *percussion with the fingers, or with the finger* upon the parts which are the seat of the pain, a simple and sure method of causing the pain to disappear almost immediately. In the examination of a patient who complained of atrocious pain in the head, Dourdoufi practiced percussion of the skull with the finger, for the purpose of clearing up the nature of the cephalgia. This examination was followed in two or three minutes by an entire disappearance of the cephalgia. The experiment was repeated in a number of instances, and always with the same positive result. The percussion may be made with one or several fingers, taking the precaution not to occasion disagreeable sensations to the patient. This may be accomplished by controlling the intensity of the percussion according to the sensitiveness of the patient, and gradually increasing the force of the blows. As a general rule the percussion should never be too intense. This method ameliorates and even causes the entire disappearance of every form of headache of a functional nature, without organic lesion; hemispheres, and headaches of neurasthenic, hysterical, and anemic patients. The same method has been applied to the muscular pains of neurasthenics with the same positive result. Percussion with the fingers for three to five minutes has caused the muscular pains to disappear in cases where the application of electricity (galvanization and franklinization) and massage have remained ineffectual. 2. Dourdoufi has also obtained very satisfactory results in the treatment of *rebellious insomnia* by another therapeutic method. A young man, thirty years of age, who had been tortured for several months by an insomnia for which sulphonal (2 grammes) and chloral (2 3 grammes) had been used without effect, applied to him. He advised his patient to take, after retiring, some cold milk (previously boiled)