

## MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY'S ROOMS.

*30th March, 1844.*

DR. FISHER, in the Chair.

[We publish this case in the Doctor's own words—long though it be—because we find that any abridgment would materially affect the description and animus of the history.]

Dr. Fisher related the following case :—

I was requested to visit the subject of this case, during the summer of 1842. I found her emaciated to the lowest degree. She showed considerable curvature of the spine, and there was a constant discharge of a thin greenish pus from an opening near the lower margin of the left side of the thorax. This opening, I was soon satisfied, communicated with the cavity of the chest. Little could be done in the way of treatment; the administration of tonics, with due regard to the state of the bowels, constituted the chief of my therapeutic means. There was little or no cough. For some weeks, I daily expected to hear of her death. Things continued in this state for two or three months, when her mother directed my attention to a considerable tumour, yielding a distinct fluctuation just above the crest of the ilium, and close to the spine of the left side. I opened the abscess by a pretty free puncture, at my next visit, and obtained half a slop basinful of matter, similar to that issuing from the opening in the thorax. For some time, both openings continued to discharge, and she became gradually weaker. I entertained no hopes of her life; at length, however, the discharge diminished very much; she gradually regained her strength, and, to all appearance, recovered entirely. The last time I saw her, on account of that illness, was in the spring of 1843, when she had walked from Salaberry street, in the Quebec Suburbs, to my house; she was then in good condition,—indeed she was fat. About six weeks ago, her father called upon me, and requested that I would see her again. I then heard that she had been ill a week, with her old complaint. She had much fever, was exceedingly weak, coughed considerably, and expectorated a white mucus. On examining the chest, I discovered a slight puffness a little below the left clavicle. Percussion yielded a dull sound over a great part of the left half of the thorax, and the metallic tinkling was distinct, accompanying cough and speech. The part below was not affected; she felt no pain or other peculiar sensation in the part. I prescribed a blister to the chest, and calomel and opium internally. At my next visit, I found that the puffiness had disappeared, but in other respects she was worse. The dull sound on percussion extended over the whole of the affected side;