

THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD.

VOL. XVI.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY, 1888.

No. 5.

CONTENTS.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.	PROGRESS OF SCIENCE.	EDITORIAL.
Obstetrics and Gynecology..... 97	Feeding Phthisis 110	A New Treatment for Boils and Carbuncles..... 119
SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS.	The Cause and Treatment of Infantile Eczema..... 113	The Cancer Bacillus and the Sarcoma Bacillus..... 119
Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal 99	When and how to use Mydriatics in the Eye..... 115	Personal..... 120
CORRESPONDENCE.	Suppurative Peritonitis; Opening, Washing and Sponging the Peritoneum; Recovery..... 118	Review..... 120
Letter from New York 107	The Treatment of Ophthalmia Neonatorum 118	Josef Hofmann..... 120

Original Communications.

OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY.

By A. LAPTHORN SMITH, B.A., M.D., M.R.C.S. ENG.,
Lecturer on Gynecology in Medical Faculty Bishop's College.

How many women have died from the rupture of an undiagnosed extra uterine foetation, it is impossible to say, but it is certain that the number must be very large. As the general practitioner becomes more expert in diagnosing these cases, and as the gynecologist is always ready to operate, their condition will become less and less desperate. When in Berlin last year I saw two such cases in one week, I think, in the practice of one operator in which the ruptured tubes were ligatured and removed. One of these women was up and about before I left Berlin, and the other, as I learned from Martin at the Congress at Washington, died a few days later, from anæmia. Martin at the time complimented the physicians who had made the diagnosis.

A case of successful operation of one of these cases was mentioned at the last meeting of the medical society here, by Dr. Gardner. The case occurred in the practice of Dr. Brown, who promptly diagnosed the condition and called Dr. Gardner in consultation, who as promptly decided to operate with the gratifying result that the lady is alive and doing well, and with every prospect of continuing so.

In quite a contrast to this is a case reported in the *British Medical Journal*, 3rd March, 1888, in which the attendant says: "He found the patient pallid and pulseless, and refusing to be moved. Sur-

prising the nature of the case," he says, "he decided that nothing could be done." At the autopsy his surmise was confirmed.

Testimony still continues to pour in from every quarter in favor of Apostoli's treatment of fibroids and chronic metritis and endometritis. Even Keith, one of the greatest of English Laparotomists, is so satisfied with the result of a year's work with the method, that he says that he does not intend ever to remove a fibroid with the knife again. Dr. Burton (*British Medical Journal*, 3rd March, '88,) says: "As one of the English surgeons who have profited by Apostoli's teachings, and as I have put the teachings into practice, I may be considered to be in a position to say something on the question. In the first place I have seen no appearances threatening danger to life from the use of electricity, and I have used it sixty times. Secondly, I have used it in seven cases of uterine myoma, and of this number three are already practically cured, the tumors having become so much reduced in size as to have become insignificant. As I only began the treatment in Dec., I claim that three recoveries out of seven cases in the short space of two months quite equals the success obtained by castration operations. I look upon the latter, as regards the treatment of the tumors under discussion, as dead as amputation of the finger for whitlow (which was the recognized treatment in the time of Charles the II)."

I have been using electricity in gynecology since June of last year, several hundred times, and have not yet seen any dangerous symptoms, and the results, which I from time to time publish, are very satisfactory. Of course the ovariomists, especially the ones who annually reap a large