

THE

# MONTREAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

---

Vol. XXV.

JULY, 1896.

No. 1.

---

## Original Communications.

---

### THE REPORT OF THE AMERICAN PEDIATRIC SOCIETY'S COLLECTIVE INVESTIGATION INTO THE USE OF ANTITOXIN IN THE TREATMENT OF DIPHTHERIA IN PRIVATE PRACTICE.<sup>1</sup>

This subject was chosen by the officers of the Society for its eighth annual meeting, with the belief that a large amount of valuable experience not otherwise available might in this way be reached and collated. It was also believed that a more trustworthy estimate of the value of the serum treatment of diphtheria might thus be obtained than by statistics taken from hospital practice. There are very few hospitals in America that receive diphtheria patients, and the conditions under which patients are admitted to hospitals and the surroundings while there are so different from those of private practice, that the measure of success in hospital cases cannot be taken as an index of the results which have been obtained upon this side of the Atlantic with the new treatment.

In order, therefore, to obtain an expression of opinion from American physicians as to the serum treatment, after what had been, with most of them, their first year's experience, a circular letter was prepared and issued by the Committee early in April. This was distributed through the members of the Society as widely as could be done during the time allowed. An attempt was made to reach as many physicians as possible who had had experience with the remedy.

The first surprise of the Committee was in learning how very widely the serum treatment had been employed, especially in the Eastern and mid-Western states. With more time, the number of cases collected might easily have been doubled and perhaps trebled;

---

<sup>1</sup> Reported at the Eighth Annual Meeting held at Montreal, Canada, May 26, 1896.