

improvements which have recently been made in the department of abdominal surgery, I think that we are justified, if operative interference is contemplated at all, to perform it then.

The mortality of all cases of extra-uterine pregnancy arriving at and going beyond term, which, for all practical purposes we may conclude are abdominal, as we have only one case of Tubal that has been recorded as reaching the end of gestation, thus includes those operated on amounts to 50 p.c.

Of those operated on the mortality is 43 p.c., and the morality of those left to nature 52 p.c.

Of those cases hitherto operated before term we find that the mortality was largely due to efforts to extract placenta, causing in most cases fatal hæmorrhage at the time or subsequent exhaustion; but now that we recognize the rule as established by the eminent authority in this operation to leave the placenta, I think we can with confidence anticipate better results than heretofore and avoid septicæmia by the use of disinfecting injections into the sac and other means as used by operators in the abdomen in other cases.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADA MEDICAL RECORD.

SIR,—Montreal is now in a position to afford considerable satisfaction to those who take no interest in, or cry down sanitary matters, as it has been and is now well blessed with epidemics. In the autumn we had typhoid fever of a very severe form, and now measles is enjoying an unlimited sway in all parts of the city. It is not confined to any one locality, but the disease has even extended to outside municipalities.

In addition to this, small-pox persistently defies the spasmodic efforts of our health office. If some of our city fathers would be as eager to investigate the different causes of the city's unhealthiness as they are the conduct of officials who attempt to perform their duties as well as they can, the citizens might then expect some good results from the health office. As it is now, it is an office of confusion with few servants and many masters. The citizens, themselves, are not free from blame. They are too indifferent, and, notwithstanding all the efforts of the city press and the medical periodicals,

this indifference amounts to total neglect of all health matters; in fact, a certain portion will fully help to carry the contagion of disease from one place to another. Recent events that have come to our knowledge force us to make this last assertion. Fancy a nurse or visitor coming out of a house where is small-pox and getting into a street car right at the front door; and yet this was done. Another instance, a young lady comes to a house in this city, on a visit for a few days, from a neighbouring convent. Some of the members of the house are ill with measles, still this young lady was not told to remain away. She remains for a few days and returns to her studies at the convent. There she falls ill with measles, and the result is an outbreak of the disease in a large educational establishment. Of course in this instance, it is not the fault of the authorities of the convent, but here we have an example of the most utter ignorance on the part of a highly respectable family, who make no effort to keep themselves isolated from friends. When we see the same among the educated, how can we blame the poor laborer who has no opportunities of knowing better.

The public have yet a great deal to learn, and it is disheartening to the profession to see its teaching bringing no result. Proprietors of houses are still satisfied with cheap plumbing, as they know full well the difference between good and bad plumbing can only be detected by the trained expert. Frequently this difference is only slight in appearance, but commonly great enough to bring death into a household. Jas. C. Bayles, in his work on "House Drainage," says truly, when he states, "as the plumbing work of our houses is commonly done, it would be better for most of us if we had to bring our water in buckets from a public hydrant, and carry our waste to the culvert at the nearest street corner."

The fault of this is, in a great many instances, with the proprietor, who is not willing to pay the price of good work. In nearly every instance where we found it necessary to have a house inspected, the fault was discovered to be defective work done by ignorant workmen, or on account of the low price.

The public must still have the lecture repeated over and over again, until they understand the plain incontestible fact, that good