

the post-partem uterus, etc. Billroth showed that granulating surfaces do not absorb the putrid poison, so that septic intoxication does not occur after granulation tissue is formed, so long as it remains healthy.

Septic infection on the other hand, differs from intoxication, in being intensely infective. No matter how small a portion of poison is introduced, it goes on reproducing itself in the blood or other tissues, so that this form of blood poisoning must be due to the entrance of specific fungi, and their subsequent multiplication in the body. These organisms produce their particular toxins in the blood, but as they are non-irritant, no metastatic inflammations arise, and this form of blood poisoning is also not a pyæmia, but a septicæmia.

These infective organisms are of different species, and are not necessarily, though often, present in putrid material. Therefore we often have absorption of putrid fluids without septic infection.

Practically, it is important to note that septic infection may occur from the smallest wound, even without evidence of the entrance of a poison. The smaller the wound, with symptoms of blood poisoning, the greater the likelihood of the process being one of septic infection.

Pyæmia, or as it is now called, septico-pyæmia, differs from the two diseases just spoken of, in that in pyæmia we have not only a general disease characterized by rigors, fever, delirium, etc., but also secondary foci of inflammation resulting in metastatic abscesses.

It is now admitted that there are no specific organisms of suppuration. The streptococci and staphylococci are most commonly found associated with the condition of pyæmia, though others may produce it, as the *M. lanceolatus*, *B. coli communis*, gonococcus and others.

THE LATE KENNETH M. FENWICK, M.D.

By the death of Dr. Fenwick, Kingston has lost one of her leading medical lights. Another earnest worker has gone over to the majority. His death was caused by an accident while attending to his duties as surgeon to the General Hospital. A cut was made in his finger while operating upon a child for septic peritonitis. Septicæmia was the result, and death in about a

week. Dr. Roddick, of Montreal, was in attendance during the last few hours, but the end came at 11 p.m. Jan. 21.

Dr. Fenwick was a comparatively young man, only 44 years of age. He was a native of Kingston, son of the Rev. K. N. Fenwick, late of the Congregational College, Montreal. Dr. K. Fenwick was well known as a brilliant surgeon, not only through Canada, but also in the United States. His contributions to serial medical literature were numerous. An article from his pen appeared in our October issue. Like so many other men of brilliant parts, he died all too young, but it must ever be a source of consolation to his numerous friends and admirers that he died with the harness on. We wish to join with the many who offer their condolence to his bereaved wife and family.

A TEST IN PHARMACAL "ETHICS."—Mr. E. A. Schubert, of Fostoria, Ohio, says, the *Western Druggist*, in the course of a paper on pharmacal ethics, relates this account of a practical test of the professional integrity and competency of retail druggists in a given section of his State—a section, by the way, probably the equal in professional intelligence and honesty of the average community in Ohio and other States. "I espoused the thought," remarks Mr. Schubert, "that it would be a capital idea to write a prescription of easy composition and analysis, to see how many druggists would fill it correctly. I will set to work immediately mailing to each of fifty physicians one of the prescriptions, at the same time asking him to write it as a prescription of his own, send some friend with it to his druggist to have it filled, a copy taken and returned to me with the compounded prescription. Out of the fifty requests sent out, I received thirty-seven answers. The prescription called for a three-ounce preparation, but placing them side by side I found twenty-one to be three-ounce preparations, seven were in size four ounces, while the rest ranged in size from five to eight ounces. It was to be an emulsion; nineteen were of that composition, the remainder were far from being true to name. In color, when correctly filled, it would be nearly white; of these twenty-two were true in color, while the remainder ranged from a steel gray to nearly all the