

Society Reports.

Toronto Medical Society.

(JANUARY 24TH, 1895.)

President, DR. PETERS, in the chair.

Hæmoglobin.—Dr. A. B. MACALLUM gave an historical sketch of the comparative views which have been held in regard to the physiological and therapeutic use of iron in the past. Although it was used, he said, as early as the time of Paracelsus, yet it was only within the past fifty years that any explanation of its use was advanced. At this later period hæmatin was isolated from the blood, which was found to contain iron; and it was hinted that the respiratory power of the blood was in some way or other associated with iron. In 1861 and 1862 hæmoglobin was isolated, and it was proven that the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood was directly associated with it. Previous to this it had been found that iron salts increased the number of corpuscles, and under its influence anæmia disappeared. The speaker related the experiments which were made with the object of ascertaining whether the iron administered really formed an organic compound or not.

About ten years ago this was answered. From experiment on the organic iron compounds in egg-yoke, Bungé discovered that the hæmoglobin of the body was formed out of these, the iron-holding nucleins present in the food, which are derived primarily from the vegetable cell. Bungé stated that the action of the iron-salts was due to the part they played in shielding the organic compounds of the body from destruction, they, the salts, not being absorbed at all. Dr. Macallum stated that from experiments he had made, he had found that iron salts were absorbed in the intestine, and he had traced their presence from the blood vessels to the liver. He also found that the organic salts were absorbed, too. The speaker then discussed the question as to whether all organic iron compounds are alike efficient in anæmia. He decided not, as he had produced siderosis in animals by the administration of hæmoglobin. He detailed the history of a case in which he had seen at the *post-mortem*, a similar condition, where he believed that death was hastened by the administration of defibrinated blood.

Six Cases of Vomiting of Pregnancy.—Dr. POWELL reported the history in brief of six cases of vomiting of pregnancy. In Case I. serious symptoms did not occur until the seventh month. Abstinence