

confusion. Operations of great magnitude seem to be performed with the same coolness as the removal of trifling tumours. Opening the peritoneal cavity is a matter of frequent occurrence. The spray is not used, but the parts to be operated on are first thoroughly washed with a solution of carbolic acid, and the instruments are placed in trays containing the same solution. A modification of the antiseptic dressing is used.

The great event of the past week was the address and torch-light procession given in honour of Billroth. During the past month the latter was offered Langenbeck's position in Berlin, and very great efforts were made by the Berlin University to induce the celebrated Vienna surgeon to return to his native land. Billroth, however, declined, preferring to remain here where his greatest triumphs have been achieved. In recognition of his abilities and high standing as a surgeon, and of the fact of his refusing so tempting an offer as the Berliners had made, the students determined to present an address and give him a torch-light procession. The programme was carried out last Thursday. The address was presented at noon in the aula of the old University, and the torch-light procession took place in the evening. The latter was in every way a most brilliant affair. The streets were lined by tens of thousands of people, and the procession was at least a mile long. It was formed on the opposite side of the city, and marched through to Dr. Billroth's residence. After a serenade by the Students' Choral Society, the Dr. made a short address. While witnessing the procession one naturally wondered if it would ever happen on our side of the Atlantic, that a city of nearly a million inhabitants should be moved to its very centre, as Vienna was, to do honour to a man purely for his scientific work. It is not difficult to get up such an excitement for a politician or a champion oarsman, but I am afraid it will be a long time before so much spontaneous enthusiasm is shown in honour of a physician or surgeon, no matter how great his attainments in those departments.

According to the public press, this was the most brilliant affair of the kind since the time of Rokpitanisky.

J. E. G.

## THE CANADIAN Journal of Medical Science,

A Monthly Journal of Medical Science, Criticism,  
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TO CORRESPONDENTS.—*We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere, current medical news of general interest. Secretaries of County or Territorial medical associations will oblige by forwarding reports of the proceedings of their Associations*

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1882.

### HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT DEPART- MENTS.

The out-patient departments of general hospitals, their use and abuse, have long formed the theme of interesting and animated discussions, both lay and professional. The unquestionable question of their abuse is not however our present topic, regard being merely had to the best mode of use, and the highest proficiency of our own out-door department. And first with regard to the mode of use. As at present conducted, during the six months of the session of the schools, the schoolmen on the staff are told off to take day about in rotation; and during the other six months in the year, the non-schoolmen discharge the duty in like manner. There is, in our opinion, great room for doubt if the out-door department can be as thoroughly and profitably worked by the in-door staff, as it could be by a separate and less busy body. The fact cannot be gainsaid that the labour of seeing out-patients is both time consuming and arduous, and it is scarcely to be expected that those whose available time is pretty fully occupied with in-door cases, will be likely to manifest that same zeal and attention in out-patient work, which might reasonably be looked for from an active, intelligent, and ambitious assistant staff. We should, therefore, rejoice to see a staff of assistant physicians appointed for out-patient duty. Six might be elected to serve one day a week each, or three appointed to go on duty twice a week. This might readily be accomplished by amalgamation with the Toronto Dispensary, or by a judicious selection from the many accomplished