

## Meetings of Medical Societies.

### HAMILTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY.

The regular monthly meeting of the above society was held at the Royal Hotel, June 3rd. The President, Dr. George Mackelkan, in the chair. The paper for the evening, was one by the secretary, Dr. Woolverton, on "A case of Poisoning by Paris Green." The subject of the case, a German woman, aged sixty-five, who, weary of the "struggle for existence" of her family, and pecuniary burdens, secretly took an enormous quantity of the above poison, estimated to be at least a quarter of a pound. It is supposed it was taken about 3 p.m., and she died about 11.15 of the same day. The family never suspected that she had taken the poison and, at her own urgent request, oft-repeated, no medical man was sent for, and it was not till about 10 p.m., when it became self-evident that she was sinking, that they sent for any medical assistance. She was then in a state of complete collapse; cold extremities; a fading pulse, and laboured breathing. Poisoning was not suspected till next day, when a fuller history of the symptoms was gained. She never complained of any pain, but wished to be left alone. She vomited green matter, which they took to be bile, and purged some watery stools, but as far as can be learned to no great extent. The great amount of poison taken seems to have produced a state of collapse, which prevented or obscured the usual violent symptoms of an irritant poison; and as she lived only about eight hours after it was taken, there was not full time for their development. The œsophagus and stomach were presented for inspection, and showed the marked effects of an irritant poison—the dependent part of the stomach being in an almost sloughing condition, of a slaty hue, softened. There was nearly a cup full of the green sediment mixed with mucus in the stomach, and the green substance was traced as far down as the descending colon. The lungs were markedly and uniformly emphysematous, filling the chest cavity, much pigmented, otherwise healthy. The heart was sufficiently healthy, presenting some atheromatous changes; the valves all competent.

The kidneysshowed traces of old standing disease. The membranes of the brain were congested with patches of lymph deposits. The sub-arachnoid spaces were filled with a serous fluid. The substance of the brain healthy, apparently; the liver firm, and somewhat enlarged. The usual tests for arsenic gave abundant evidence of its presence. The case is interesting from the amount of poison taken, the determination of the suicide as shown by her being able to keep her secret till the last; also from the absence of marked symptoms. It was thought by the medical gentleman in attendance that she was dying from the formation of a cardiac clot, but the cause of its production was not very evident.

MEETING OF THE NEWCASTLE AND TRENT ASSOCIATION.—Want of space compels us to hold over the report of this Meeting. It shall appear next month.

### APPOINTMENTS.

Allan Noxon, of the Village of Milford, Esquire, M.D., to be an Associate Coroner, in and for the County of Prince Edward.

James Henry Lowe, of the Village of Haliburton, M.D., to be an Associate Coroner, in and for the Provisional County of Haliburton.

Charles Battersby, of the village of Port Dover, Esquire, M.D., to be an Associate Coroner in and for the County of Norfolk.

RETENTION OF URINE—THIRTY-FIVE PUNCTURES OF THE BLADDER—CURE.—In the March No. of *La And. Méd.* we find a case of this kind reported taken from the *Rev. Méd. de Tolosa*. The patient was a man 50 years of age, suffering from a hæmorrhoidal congestion, and catheterism proved impossible. No. 2 needle of the aspirator was employed, and 2½ litres of urine were drawn off. The next morning the second puncture was made, and in the evening the third. From the 27th of July to the 12th of August two punctures daily were made. Thirty-five punctures were thus made in a space limited to two or three centimetres above the pubes. After the third aspiration a little urine was passed by the urethra, but not until the thirty-fifth was the natural function of the urethra restored.