

“not in it,” when his wiser neighbor more confidently steps to the fore.

It is, therefore, a subject for congratulation with us in St. John, that our Society retains, to so great an extent, the interest of its members. It also possesses a large and growing library, though books are not allowed to be taken from the room. We have lately had discussions on Typhoid Fever, Puerperal Eclampsia, and Diphtheria,—all three of these diseases having been unusually prevalent during the past year. We have recently, too, been favored with the report of a rather unique case,—published in the next number,—of disease of placenta and death of child, from what may be considered slight cause; a case that might readily be of great medico-legal interest. This was reported by Dr. H. G. Addy, whose papers, though not frequent, are always of interest.

We seem to have changed winters with the other side of the Atlantic, and to have taken on a rainy season instead of the usual frost and snow. Not yet has the merry tinkle of the sleigh-bells been heard in our streets this season.

Your correspondent was pleased to note the reduction in price of this journal, and thinks this action will make the taking of it more general in this Province.

ANON.

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### *Selections.*

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#### **SURGERY IN THE NEXT WAR.**

Professor Billroth spoke at length in the Austrian delegation, on December 2nd, concerning the needs of the medical service in the next war. As the words of the foremost medical and sur-

gical authority on the Continent, his address has been published in full by most German dailies, and has been quoted freely by French and Italian and Swiss newspapers.

Billroth spoke to a question regarding the improvement of the organization of the medical and surgical corps of the Austrian army, and when he was done the deputies of the delegation passed a vote of thanks to him for his exhaustive exposition of the subject. He began with showing that the progress in the manufacture of small arms, which has been the most remarkable change in weapons in the last few years, was such as would most aggravate suffering and slaughter in the battle of the future.

“The experience of the army surgeon shows,” he said, “that wounds from cannon balls and grenades are exceedingly rare compared with wounds from rifles. At the battles of Weissenburg and Worth I had an opportunity to notice, and elsewhere also I made the same observation, that artillery wounds are very few, to say nothing of the cavalry, for cuts or injuries from blows are seldom to be found.

“In figures the proportion is: 80 per cent. of the wounds come from rifle balls, perhaps 15 per cent. from heavy guns, and 5 per cent. from cavalry weapons. I speak here of battlefields and not sieges.

“I have heard the argument that the cause of this apparently gross disproportion between the deadliness of large and of small arms is that men injured by cannon balls or grenades die at once or very soon. In the war of 1870-'71, however, actual statistics of those buried in the dead trenches show that comparatively few were killed by artillery.