

Dr. Paul F. Mundé read a very valuable paper on "Prolapse of the Ovaries," a subject which has not received the attention its importance demands. In his opinion it is a very common affection, and frequently accompanies retro-displacement of the uterus. He recommended the use of cotton tampons to retain the organ in position, after having relieved all hyperæmia.

The President then read the Annual Address, taking for his subject "The Gynecology of the Future, and its Relation to Surgery." He noticed some of the chief influences which retarded gynecological and obstetric progress, especially the lack of facilities for demonstration of special views and operations. The result was, a spirit of dogmatism prevailed in regard to certain procedures and remedial measures. He also referred to the need of just and honest criticism of pamphlets and books, and suggested that a standing committee should be established, which should pronounce judgment on current literature. Speaking of gynecological surgery, he advocated greater conservatism, and assumed that an enlightened conservative surgery was the pivot around which was to revolve the gynecology of the future. Many other papers were read and discussed, which we have not space to enumerate. The next meeting was appointed to take place in Cincinnati, on the first Wednesday of September, 1880.

EFFECTS OF "PITHING" ON THE VASCULAR SYSTEM.

A recent issue of the *N. Y. Medical Record* contains an able article under the above heading, from Dr. Poole, of Lindsay, Ontario, in which as a result of personal experimentation, it is held that when the cerebro-spinal centres are destroyed, as in "pithing," the arterial vessels are not dilated, as has been generally taught; but that the arterial system is as empty and contracted as it is possible to be in the case of tubes more or less elastic; while the entire venous system is proportionately distended with blood. Dr. Burdon Sanderson, in his account of this experiment, admits the fact of venous distension, and appears to ignore the actual condition of the arteries, which Dr. Poole claims is really the important point in the operation.

The article concludes with the following summary of the chief points sought to be established:—

"1. Destruction of the nervous centres is attended, not by relaxation of the arteries, as has been asserted, but by a marked contraction and emptiness of these tubes.

2. Arterial contraction cannot be dependent on nervous agency, nor can arterial dilatation be the result of vaso-motor paralysis.

3. The vaso-motor theory at present in vogue is erroneous, untenable, and at variance with the facts it is intended to explain.

4. There are strong and valid reasons for believing that the real function of the vaso-motor nerves is, not to contract, but to dilate the arteries.

5. Similarly strong and valid reasons exist for the opinion, that the varying calibre of the arteries is due to the antagonism between the dilating influence of the vascular nerves and the inherent contractile power of the muscular fibres of these tubes; contraction or dilatation resulting in proportion as one or other of these opposing forces predominates.

The practical importance of these views will be apparent in their application to the phenomena of disease, and the action of that large and constantly increasing class of drugs known to act through the agency of the nervous system."

A CURIOUS CASE.—The following rather peculiar case came under the notice of Dr. Howland, of Huntsville, Ont. A young man, aged 20 years, son of Robt. Walker, Esq., of Sinclair, was accidentally shot by the falling of a pistol from his pocket. The ball, a very large one, entered the parietes of the chest immediately over the heart and made its exit at a point directly opposite in the back. To all appearance the ball had passed directly through the chest, but on a careful examination of the wound it was discovered that the ball had taken a most extraordinary course. It had not entered the cavity of the chest but had described a semicircle around it, being diverted by the ribs. The patient after the accident walked about six miles. He appears to be doing well.

THERAPEUTICS AND MATERIA MEDICA.—At the late meeting of the Canada Medical Association, Dr. Playter read a few remarks on "Therapeutics and Materia Medica;" the object of which was to draw attention to the desirability of a more satisfactory and generally understood and accepted foundation as regards the teaching and practice of