

The Canada Medical Record.

Vol. XXIII.

MONTREAL, AUGUST, 1895.

No. 11.

CONTENTS.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

The Present Status of the Electrical Treatment of Fibroids 241

SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS.

Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society 243
 Discussion on Hypertrophy of the Heart, apart from Valvular Disease 243

PROGRESS OF SCIENCE.

Unilateral Sweating in Tuberculosis. 257

Perinephritic Abscess. 257
 Treatment of Empyema 258
 Fistula in Ano 258
 Treatment of some Frequent Maladies in Children—Anæmia, Anæmia of Syphilis, Foods Permitted, Foods not Permitted, Nephritic Colic 258
 Therapeutic Briefs—Prescriptions for Psoriasis, Chronic Constipation, Blisters of the Feet, Chronic Pharyngitis, Bronchitic Asthma, Incontinence of Urine, Removal of Warts, Ozena, Asthma, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Seborrhœic Eczema, Insomnia, Appendicitis, Sedative Plaster, Psoriasis, Conjunctivitis. 259
 Tumor of the Face 261
 Class-Room Notes 261, 264

EDITORIAL.

Should Patients in Private Rooms in Public Hospitals be Allowed to have their own Doctor? 262
 Sanitary Condition of Montreal..... 262
 The Buffalo Medical Journal..... 263
 A Quiet Resting Place 263

Personals 263

News Items 264

Pamphlets received..... 264

Original Communications.

THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE ELECTRICAL TREATMENT OF FIBROIDS.*

BY A. LAPHORN SMITH, B.A., M.D.,
Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; Fellow of the American Gynecological Society; President American Electro-Therapeutic Association; Surgeon-in-Chief of the Samaritan Hospital for Women, Montreal; Gynecologist to the Montreal Dispensary; Surgeon to the Women's Hospital, Montreal.

The present age in gynecology, and abdominal surgery, especially, may be called the extreme surgical age; and, as a result of the wonderful advances and the great lowering of the death-rate of surgical operations, owing to the application of the

principles of asepsis, surgical enthusiasm has reached its highest point. One must have a great deal of courage, indeed, to advocate any other method of treatment than surgical operation, especially at a meeting where the surgical element so greatly preponderates; nevertheless, the writer believes that the majority of women with fibroid tumors can be relieved of their pain and bleeding by means of the constant electrical current. If employed within certain limits, it is absolutely devoid of danger; while the application of the treatment should be almost devoid of pain. On the other hand, the surgical treatment, even under the very best of conditions, has so far always been accompanied with a mortality rate; there are fewer deaths than there were when Freund lost seventy-five per cent. of his cases of abdominal hysterectomy, but still the death rate remains, so that the electrical treatment, with no death rate, has this great advantage over the surgical treatment. The electrical treatment, also,

* Abstract of paper read before the section of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the American Medical Association, at Baltimore, May 7, 1895.