

male and female, in the public, independent of those in the private wards; and 30 old men, 30 old women, 43 boys, and 35 girls, not under medical treatment. The paid work of this establishment is executed by 7 men and 12 women; but all the work relating to the sick is performed by the sisters of mercy. We have only to add, and we do so with satisfaction, that the erection of this splendid edifice is the unaided offspring of many years of the most rigid economy; and that the support of the many hundred inmates, is with the exception of those in the English speaking wards, totally independent of government aid, or of public charity.—*Cont.*

Canada Lancet.

MONTREAL, MARCH 14, 1863.

In issuing this, probably one of the smallest medical periodicals in existence, it cannot be expected that we should occupy much space with an editorial.

Our object is to make it a paper of practical value to every general practitioner. In doing this, we shall endeavour to give, in as brief a manner as possible, a monthly record of most that is new and valuable in medical science, from every part of the world.

We desire to have it understood that its columns are free to all. And we indulge in the hope that they may be enriched by contributions from a large number of the medical men of this Province, and thereby become one of the means of extending and perpetuating the already wide-spread reputation of the Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

It becomes our painful duty to record another death from the inhalation of chloroform, which has occurred in the Montreal General Hospital. On the 31th ultimo, one Ellen McLaughlin, was put under the influence of this anæsthetic, preparatory to an operation for hemorrhoids; when the pulse at the wrist ceasing suddenly, every means at hand was employed to restore her to life, without avail.

This is the second accident of the kind in this institution, within two years. We were present at the first in August, 1861. It was a case of dislocation of the hip; the woman who took chloroform safely at the examination on entering, succumbed to it the following day, when given to facilitate reduction. At the moment of cessation of breathing, fresh air and ammonia were primarily had recourse to, when magneto-electricity was proposed, and the instrument was found to be out of order, and could not be used; another was sent for, which arrived in about twenty minutes after it was required. Thus was one of our most powerful means of exciting the heart and diaphragm into action, unavailable. Charity threw its mantle over this untoward omission, owing to the fact, that this was the first accident from chloroform in Montreal, after thousands of cases of its safe administration; and it was not, therefore, to be expected that every precaution would have been taken, where, hitherto, no necessity had ever seemingly existed for any.

But now will the profession judge the surgeon in the present instance, who, unwarned by past negligence, still keeps no electrical machine in order, against the time of need; and another patient sinks into the sleep of death? We by no means affirm that even had the instrument been immediately employed, it would have succeeded; but we do say, that electricity is one of our most valuable means of resuscitation.

We regret that this accident has occurred in the Montreal General Hospital, under such circumstances: for it is a noble institution, and admirably conducted by its present managers, who have ever been ready to grant money for the purchase of all things necessary to alleviate the sufferings of the sick; and who, notwithstanding the grant by government, and usual liberal support of private contributions, have volunteered to make extra exertions within the past few years, to raise funds, in order to furnish the hospital with a fresh supply of surgical instruments, of every kind; and whose perseverance and energy for this purpose, are beyond all praise.

THE BRITISH AMERICAN JOURNAL.—With regret we notice the cessation of this Medical periodical, so long and ably conducted by Professor Hall. It is a credit to our country; and we do sincerely hope for the honour of the profession in Canada, that the physicians and surgeons of this city, will not allow it thus to become extinct, but that they will, without delay, unite their means and influence to sustain it; and by the promise of a heartier support in future, induce its able editor, even yet, to continue his arduous labours.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.—We are in receipt of the Medical circular of this celebrated institution. Holding its lectures in Boston, and possessing among its professors some of the most distinguished men in the profession, it stands deservedly high in the estimation of the world.

One great superiority of the United States colleges over our own, is in the giving of summer instruction. There the students are kept in constant training the whole year round; here, after the winter lectures are over, and the necessary relaxation so requisite to recruit his energies, the student is compelled either to proceed southward to these universities and hospitals, or to pass his summer months at home, where in a large majority of cases they are spent in irregular attempts at study, and he finds by fall that he has rather lost than gained by his long respite from well-directed mental labour and observation.

Were a thorough course of clinical instruction, and the reporting of cases so admirably conducted at present in McGill college, extended through the summer months, with regular examinations on some of the more important branches lectured on throughout the preceding winter, it would be a decided improvement, and tend much to the advancement of our students.

In the French School of Medicine, the reporting of cases and taking of notes by students are not sufficiently encouraged. Last winter, on the invitation of one of its professors, we visited this institution; and we must say, we felt grieved to see so few trusting to other than their own memories, for the recollection of the principles so ably enunciated in an admirable lecture on the practice of medicine.