

The fast of Signor Succi for forty days, which from all accounts seems to have been genuine at least, proves that people would not be in danger of death, as many of them think, because they went without food for a few hours or even a whole day. The hard working stone-breaker seems to be able to work ten hours a day on what others, who do no work at all, would think they were being starved on.

### CO-EDUCATION.

In a late issue we made some remarks upon this question, which, we have reason to believe, have been well received by both the faculty and the students of Bishop's College medical school. We shall be happy if anything we have written should lead to the solution of the question,—where shall female doctors be educated? without adding one more to the medical schools of this city. Instead of the young women candidates going around begging for an endowment to start another college here, there is a school ready and willing to admit them on equal terms with their brothers. Of course some slight alteration in the college building would be necessitated, such as a separate dissecting room and separate retiring rooms, but that would be an easy matter. We understand that already a considerable number of young women in the city intend entering next fall if the suggested arrangements can be carried out. What will become of the girl doctors after they graduate? This is a question which both they and their young male confreres may ask with anxiety. We shall try to answer it. First of all there are hundreds of cases of midwifery to attend which are now being attended by ignorant midwives, simply because they cannot afford the charges of the young male doctor. These poor working women pay about four dollars for the confinement and subsequent attendance. The young male doctor wont attend them for that price, and even if he would they prefer a midwife, for the simple reason that they cannot afford a

nurse to wash them and the baby for the first few days, and this the midwife does. Now, if the young female doctor will take hold of the work there is plenty of it to do, and she will not only earn a decent living but confer an incalculable blessing on her fellow women among the working class. Of course this will injure the more ignorant of the midwives, some of whom are better suited for the kitchen and laundry, where they can, however, always obtain plenty of work. Then again, when the workingman's children are sick he does not dare to call in a doctor until the very last; a man with a large family, living on twenty-four dollars a month, cannot afford many dollar visits, which is the minimum fee that the young male doctor has been taught to take. The result is that his child dies for the lack of attendance, or else is taken to the overcrowded out-patient room at the Hospital, where the poor mother is sometimes obliged to wait three or four hours away from the rest of her little ones. The young female doctor will find lots of work which is now going a begging, and if her education does not drive away the tenderness from her woman's heart, her possibilities for doing good are almost unlimited.

Then again she may marry; nay, more, she may marry a doctor, thus forming one of the best of partnerships. She could help him to dispense his medicines, administer anæsthetics, and assist him in a hundred different ways, especially in the early years of struggling and before she has many children to absorb her care and attention. But if she does not marry a doctor she may marry some other man, to whom she will be none the less a pleasant companion, because she is highly educated. And if such a marriage should entail her retirement from practice still she may act as a valuable centre for disseminating useful knowledge among her female friends, in whom lifelong sickness and misery is often due to utter ignorance of the laws of health.

We are glad to see by the *Canadian*