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CONTENTS.

| ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS. | PROGRESS OF MEDICAL SCIENCE. | EDITORIALS. |
|---|---|--|
| Case of Puerperal Convulsion. 49 | Pædiatric Therapeutics and its Relation to General Therapeutics, 62.—On the Treatment of Pneumonia, 65.—Practical Points from Philadelphia Clinics, 69.—Cannabis Indica: A Valuable Remedy in Menorrhagia, 70.—Hæmoptysis, 71.—Local Anæsthetics. 71 | College of Physicians and Surgeons, Province of Quebec—Method of Electing its Governors, 71.—Reviews, 72.—Personal..... 72 |
| SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS. | | |
| Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal, 51.—University of Bishop's College, 54.—McGill University..... 61 | | |

Original Communications.

CASE OF PUERPERAL CONVULSION.

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(Read before the Medico Chirurgical Society of Montreal.)

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN.—The interest evinced in the very able paper lately read before the Society by our esteemed *confrère*, Dr. Armstrong, on some cases of Puerperal Eclampsia induces me to submit for your consideration the following case of the same disease, which occurred some months ago in my practice. Mrs. L., æt. 32, married one year, who had engaged me to attend her in her first confinement, consulted me at my office on the 22nd July. She was a dark, thick-set, rather stout woman, of active habits and enjoying a good appetite. Before her marriage she had suffered for many years from severe dysmenorrhœa, which nothing had relieved until she became pregnant, since which she had become entirely free from pain. Since her marriage she had been in constant fear, almost amounting to dread, that she would never get over her confinement, which anxiety I had considerable difficulty in allaying. She was then at about the 7th month of pregnancy.

She came to me on the above date, complaining of headache and pain in the back, which were so severe as to prevent her from sleeping; also of

numbness on the right side. I gave her a mixture containing bromide of potassium and hydrate of chloral, and some directions as to diet, as her tongue was coated and bowels confined. Her vision appeared normal, and she thought that her water was all right.

Next day, however, the 23rd July, she returned to my office, stating that she felt quite silly; that she called things by the wrong name, and that everything seemed to be upside down. She had vomited several times, complained of increased headache, and of severe pains in the lower part of her belly, accompanied by strange movements, different from those formerly caused by the child, which I presume were uterine tenesmus. She also complained of painful and frequent micturition, and that the urine was very scanty and high colored. I now perceived that her feet were swelled, and her eyelids puffy; and on examining her urine, some of which I had told her on the previous day to bring, found it loaded with albumen.

I sent her home at once, ordered a fly-blister to the back of her neck and to eat or drink nothing but milk.

A few hours later I was sent for in great haste, being informed that she had had a fit, and was apparently dying. On reaching her I found her quiet but comatose, with stertorous breathing. The foetal heart could not be heard. On examination the os uteri was found to be dilated to the size of a quarter dollar, the head presenting.