

Personals.

Dr. R. McGee was in Toronto last week, and reports favourably of Midland City.

Dr. Miller, of Hamilton, paid a short visit to Toronto last week, and attended the annual dinner of Trinity Medical School.

At the annual meeting of the subscribers to the Toronto General Hospital, Mr. Walter S. Lee was unanimously re-elected trustee for the coming year.

Dr. Olver, of Mimico, is entitled to the sympathy of the profession in his affliction, two of his children having fallen victims to diphtheria.

Dr. W. Stewart Philp (McGill, M.D., C.M. '89, M.C.P.S., Ont.), who is spending the winter in Florida, has been accepted a member of the Florida Medical Association, after passing a creditable examination.

Dr. Harris, of Brantford, Chairman of the Educational Committee, attended the Trinity dinner. He told one of those original stories of his at the table, which convulsed the house with laughter, and gained for him a reputation amongst the students which will not soon be forgotten.

Dr. H. W. Day, of Belleville, the Chief Justice of the Discipline Committee, conducted the business of the court with the care and astuteness of a lawyer. He is now the only territorial member of the present Council who sat at the first Council Board in July, 1869.

Dr. Geo. Logan, of Ottawa, one of the members of the Discipline Committee, has been for nearly twenty years a faithful member of the Council. He was President during the year 1883-84. He states that the profession in his district are in entire sympathy with the Council.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on Wednesday, November 30th, 1892, Dr. G. E. de Schweinitz was, on the unanimous recommendation of the Faculty, elected clinical Professor of Ophthalmology in the Jefferson Medical College. At the time of his election, Dr. de Schweinitz was Professor of Ophthalmology in the Philadelphia Polyclinic, and Lecturer on Medical Ophthalmoscopy in the University of Pennsylvania.

MONTREAL MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—The following officers were elected for the ensuing

year:—President, Dr. James Stewart; 1st Vice-President, Dr. E. P. Lachapelle; 2nd Vice-President, Dr. James Bell; Secretary, Dr. Kenneth Cameron; Treasurer, Dr. J. A. MacDonald; Librarian, Dr. T. D. Reid; Council, Drs. F. Butler, F. W. Campbell and T. G. Roddick.

Correspondence.

The Editors do not hold themselves in any way responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

DISSECTING ROOMS AND OBSTETRICIANS.

To the Editor of ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL.

SIR, As a pathologist, I will answer Dr. Mewburn's question, Is the practice of midwifery by men or women connected with the dissecting room, post mortem room, etc., etc., dangerous or not?

No! Most emphatically, No!

Do you believe in antisepsis? Do you believe that you can go from one labour case to another without carrying infection from case to case? *Would you* see in consultation a case of puerperal fever, making a digital examination, and then attend one of your own cases within a week, knowing that all will be right, provided your antiseptic precautions have been thorough?

Would you refuse to see any infectious disease case—scarlet fever, diphtheria, erysipelas, etc., etc.—because you expected within twenty-four hours to have a labour on hand, or, having seen such cases, *would you* refuse to attend a confinement?

Dead-house contamination is not the only means of septic infection. The probabilities are that a few, very few, cases of puerperal fever can be traced to such a source (using the term puerperal fever to designate all the puerperal sequelæ caused by sepsis). How many cases occur in the practices of men who never see the inside of a dead house, as compared with the anatomists or pathologists?

I am sure the danger lies more among the class of practitioners (and they are many) who will drive up to the patient's door, blanket and hitch their horse, perhaps giving him a friendly pat, or rearrange some part of his harness, enter the sick room, wash their hands, I say wash (?), and without hesitation enter the genital passages, thinking they are clean because they have not been exposed