

pregnancy, and her friends will know it also. Missed labor may be a subject of great medico-legal importance; the same is true, and even more so, of missed abortion or missed miscarriage. If, for instance, a woman passed a two months foetus at the end of a five months' so-called pregnancy, and were the physician to tell the husband, who had been away from her during the five months, that his wife had had a two months' child, a rather unpleasant shock to the marital harmony might ensue. The importance can be appreciated by the practitioner, therefore, of counting a woman's pregnancy not up to the time when the foetus was discharged, but back to the time when it died, if any evidence of death can be adduced.

When a woman has a missed miscarriage or missed abortion the foetus dies, the symptoms of pregnancy are arrested, milk sometimes appears at the breasts, hemorrhages from the uterus may or may not occur. If the liquor amnii is not discharged it is absorbed, and the contents of the uterus either macerate or become mummified. If the membranes remain entire the process is that of mummification. It is only when germs are admitted and generally after rupture of the bag of membranes that putrefaction and maceration take place and the more or less complete dissolution of the ovum. If the uterus has been felt the remarkable observation may be made that while a woman is apparently going on in pregnancy the organ is becoming smaller instead of bigger, and at last the ovum may be at any time unexpectedly expelled. When expelled you have a mass nearly dry of a dirty brown color; the foetus and membranes may be concealed, being rolled up in the placenta, which is too firm to be compressed and embraces the whole ovum. The remarkable freshness, if it may be so called, of the foetus in the case which I bring to your notice, after remaining eight months dead in utero, does not correspond to the usual appearance of such cases, as above defined, and is my

apology, if any be necessary, for bringing this subject before your attention to-night

## Society Proceedings.

### MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

*Regular Meeting, November 29, 1889.*

DR. ARMSTRONG, PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

Present: Drs. F. W. Campbell, Trenholme, Laphorn Smith, Buller, Jas. Stewart, Alloway, Reed, England, Jack, Schmidt, Johnston, Brown, Mills, Findley, Allan, McConnell, Bell, Roddick, Gardner, G. T. Ross, Birkett, Stirling, Springle and Ruttan.

Drs. J. G. McCarthy and J. Leslie Foley were proposed for membership.

Dr. Geo. Ross suggested that the nature of the pathological specimen be mentioned on the programme.

Dr. Johnston advocated the system in vogue in London, where the specimens are on view all the evening, being each accompanied by a card describing their most important points.

Dr. Birkett asked that in future members intending to show specimens would give him a title for them to appear on the programme.

Dr. G. T. Ross then read a paper on "Missed Abortion," which appears on another page.

*Discussion.*—Dr. Trenholme had had two cases of missed abortion. In one of them the foetus remained for twelve months after the cessation of the symptoms of pregnancy, and when Dr. T. was called he found that the decidua, reflexa and vera were separated, and one hand was found between the membrane in the uterus. There was frequent hemorrhage, both menstrual and inter-menstrual, which he accounted for by the foetus having become a foreign body, and having set up endometritis; he thought that this condition of missed abortion was more likely to occur in diseased or broken down women who had borne many children.

Dr. Gardner being called upon, said that Dr. Ross had reported everything that could be said about it. Personally, he had had very little experience about such cases, having seen only one besides this one. There were no difficulties either as regards diagnosis or treatment.

Dr. Alloway said that Dr. Ross had covered the ground so thoroughly that there was nothing left for him to say, except that he was glad to see that these cases were being more generally recognized and reported. He had himself reported one to the society four years ago, at which time very little attention was given to the subject. He thought they called for treat-