

surgeon in his daily work, and at the same time to keep our readers abreast of the most recent scientific discoveries of the day as regards medicine. Now that we may succeed in the first of these objects, we feel that we shall need the assistance of the practitioners of this country, wherever and whoever they may be. Any man who has a practice, and who uses his intelligence, must meet with cases which would be instructive and interesting to his fellow-workers. But how few of our medical men think it worth while to contribute short, practical articles, or letters to the Medical Journals of this country. Very few indeed, as is witnessed by the scarcity of such communications in all Canadian Journals. The case is different with the English Journals, and with many American Journals, whose circulation is perhaps no larger, and whose readers we are sure are no more intelligent or scientific than ours.

Long formal articles are not the kind of communications of which we are now speaking. There can be no doubt that the great majority of medical men entertain views on certain subjects, and have methods of treatment which would be very valuable to the profession generally, but which, owing to the reticence of the possessors of such knowledge never see the light. Short, concise, and pointed articles, in which theories are not so prominent as facts, and good results are shown from certain methods of treatment, will be appreciated by all who read medical journals. We take it to be the duty of every medical man to add his quota, however small, to the general fund of knowledge which goes to the improvement of the condition and amelioration of the suffering of mankind.

THE CAUSE OF TETANUS.—A short time ago we drew attention in an editorial note to the probability of tetanus being an infectious disease. Lately Drs. Rattone and Carle have reported the results of their investigations on this subject to the Medical Academy in Turin (*Rundschau, Virginia, Med. Monthly*). They give the following case and conclusions:—Towards the end of 1886 a patient died of tetanus in the Hospital of St Maurice, in Turin. Two hours after death the initial lesion and some of the surrounding tissues were cut out, from which a watery emulsion was made. One month later the fluid was examined and found to contain large numbers of bacilli and cocci. Twelve

guinea pigs were injected in various organs (nerves, muscles and spinal cord), all of which, with one exception, died in from six to eight days with all the symptoms of tetanus. From these animals pieces of the ischiatic nerve and spinal cord were taken out and again an emulsion made. Some of this fluid was injected into other guinea pigs and all died of tetanus. In order to make these experiments distinctive, animals were injected with putrid and septic matter and strychnine, which gave entirely different symptoms at death. The experimenters conclude that—(1) tetanus is an infectious disease; (2) an animal can be inoculated from a human being; and (3) it can be transmitted from one guinea pig to another.

PAJOT ON STERILITY.—Speaking on the subject of obstacles to fecundity in the human species, Professor Pajot says: "Has the woman an anteversion? Say to her: 'Have the kindness, if you please, every evening when you expect to have intercourse with your husband, not to urinate for five or six hours. Don't ask why; that doesn't concern you. Only don't urinate. You wish to have children? Yes? Well then, urinate after intercourse, and not before.' If she has a retroversion, say to her: 'Madame, when your menses are over, eat plenty of eggs and plenty of rice. Take every night for three or four days a little pill which I am going to give you.' (This little pill contains simply a third of a grain of extract of opium.) 'Manage not to go to stool for three or four days. Then have intercourse with your husband, but don't go to stool till afterward.' You will say that all this is very ridiculous; yet the whole process is entirely rational and is based upon anatomical and physiological principles." This reminds us of the story of the physician's assistant who was consulted by a lady wishing to have an abortion procured. The assistant, who was an Irishman, heard her complaint, and being ignorant of any means to produce the desired result, advised her to "hold her water for three or four days, and she'd drown the little chap out."

THE SPONTANEOUS ORIGIN OF SCARLET FEVER.—It is generally conceded that the ghost of the *de novo* origin of scarlet fever has been laid, but the question crops out here and there even yet. Thus Dr. Newton, the State Dairy Commissioner of New Jersey, writes in *Science*:—"I have often