

# The Canada Medical Record

VOL. XVIII.

MONTREAL, JULY, 1890.

No. 10.

## CONTENTS.

|   |     |  |     |
|---|-----|--|-----|
| <b>ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.</b>   |     |  |     |
| Pulmonary Consumption in the Light of Modern Research.....  | 217 | The Contagiousness of the Pulmonary Phthisis.....  | 229 |
| The Time for Surgical Interference in Acute Intestinal Obstruction—Preservation of Cat-gut Ligatures.....     | 223 | Swelled Testicle—Remote Effects of Ovarian Operations.....   | 230 |
| <b>SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS.</b>   |     | Submucous Restoration of Cartilage in Deviations of the Septum; a new Operation.....   | 231 |
| Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal, Meeting June 13.....  | 224 | The Relations of Mastication to Physical Development—Treatment of Exophthalmic Goitre.....   | 232 |
| <b>PROGRESS OF SCIENCE.</b>   |     | Consumptive Tendencies as Influenced by Trips Across the Country in a Carriage—Chloroform in Normal Labor.....   | 234 |
| The Application of the Principle of Self-Help and Self-Regulation to the Medical Profession of the State..... | 227 | How to Deal with the Placenta—Significance of a "Choked Disc"—The Binder.....  | 235 |
|   |     | The Importance of the Practice of Washing Out the Peritoneal Cavity as a Means of Securing a Natural Disposition of the Intestines after Abdominal Section—The Removal of Warts by Electrolysis—Items of Interest to the Profession..... | 235 |
|   |     | <b>EDITORIALS.</b>   |     |
|   |     | An Explanation—The Radical Cure of Polypl of the Nose—Trinity Medical College, Toronto.....  | 238 |
|   |     | Book Notices—News Items.....   | 239 |
|   |     | Personal.....  | 240 |

## Original Communications.

### PULMONARY CONSUMPTION IN THE LIGHT OF MODERN RESEARCH.

By Stephen Smith Burt, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine and Physical Diagnosis, New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital; Attending Physician, Outdoor Department (Diseases of the Chest) Bellevue Hospital.

While more than fifteen per cent of all deaths in the civilized world can still be traced to pulmonary consumption, no further apology is necessary for discussing this subject. Such a mortality alone is sufficient reason for us to persevere in our efforts to trace out the source of this evil, and to devise some radical means for its prevention. Moreover, the renewed interest which recent discoveries have awakened in general medicine is fully shared by this particular malady, and a fresh impetus has been given toward the solution of a problem which hitherto had seemed almost hopeless. Nevertheless, I must confess to some diffidence in debating this theme at a time when so many startling revelations are being made in regard to the etiology of disease, and when, from this unsettled state of our science, an argument based upon a premise of to-day may turn out to be illogical in view of the discovery of to-morrow. Still, a sufficiently large number of facts appear to be conclusively established to justify our considera-

tion of the germ-theory in its relation to pulmonary tuberculosis. I therefore undertake this topic without promising any special novelty, for my work is in the field rather than the laboratory of medicine; but with an earnest desire to elucidate the various questions involved in the present aspect of the matter and to do my share toward promulgating the latest results of modern research. And at the outset of my essay let me acknowledge the great obligations we are under to the large number of patient, painstaking workers, whose time is mostly spent behind curtains, with closed doors, peering into the but recently explored land of the bacteria, the dark continent of infection, whose miasma has been exhaling disease and death from a poisonous vegetation heretofore undiscovered.

There is a trait peculiar to a mind imbued with the real scientific spirit which is especially commendable. No seeker after the truth feels it incumbent on himself to uphold a claim which has been proved untenable. Demonstrate the fallacy of an hypothesis and it is immediately thrown aside for one that will bear verification. Meantime, however, the imagination plays a most important part in the progress of scientific investigation; for some of our most useful discoveries have long anticipated their final confirmation. An idea,