

However few may be the flowers that are sent, no one should be deterred from sending; they will supply at least a bunch for one patient.

Any communications may be addressed to the Natural History Society rooms for the Secretary of the Montreal Flower Mission.

Freely ye have received, freely give your flowers for those who have none.

The following circular has been received from the Board of Health of the Province of Quebec:

MONTREAL, May 6th, 1896.

SIR—I have the honour to communicate to you the following extract from the minutes of our meeting of the 29th April last:

Being informed that a great number of cases of croup escape the control of sanitary authorities, and that it is mostly due to the public being generally under the impression that croup is not a contagious disease, the Board of Health of the Province of Quebec authorizes the publication of the following definitions:

Croup is nothing else than diphtheria attacking more especially the respiratory tract (larynx). The expression *laryngeal diphtheria* designates better than the term croup the nature of the disease and should be preferably employed.

Distinction should always be made between croup or laryngeal diphtheria, which is contagious, and false croup or laryngismus stridulus, which is not contagious. There are no membranes in laryngismus stridulus or false croup. The cough of croupal form which characterizes this disease is due only to a nervous element.

We hope, sir, that each time you will have occasion to do so you will see that the measures prescribed against diphtheria be equally applied against croup, both being one and the same disease.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

ELZÉAR PELLETIER, *Secretary.*

The May number of *The New York Polyclinic* contains an article by Dr. Ed. A. Ayers on Symphysiotomy and Its After Effects, with a description of a new method and a report of five successful cases. There is also a tabulated report of all the recorded cases in America.

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#### NEW BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED AND NOTED.

Pregnancy, Labour, and the Puerperal State. By Egbert H. Grandin, M.D., and George W. Jarman, M.D. Philadelphia: The F. A. Davis Co.

Transactions of the American Dermatological Association.. Nineteenth annual meeting, September 17, 18, and 19, 1895. Charles W. Allan, Secretary, New York.

A Manual of Anatomy. By Irving S. Haynes, Ph.B., M.D. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders.

Ruhmkorff Induction Coils. By H. S. Norrie. New York: Spon & Chamberlain.

Mortality from Casualties. The Mutual Life Insurance Co. of New York.

The Royal London Ophthalmic Reports. October, 1895. London: J. and A. Churchill.

A Neurologist's Farewell. C. H. Hughes, M.D. Reprint from *Alienist and Neurologist*.