

thoroughly touched and the free escape of the subsequent discharge. The mode of applying caustics is worthy of attention, and we would commend a practice long adopted by ourselves, which is at once cheap and efficient, viz., to use a splinter of ash or elm wood 12 or 15 inches long, and as large as a pipe-stem, having the end to be introduced reduced to about one-eighth of an inch and notched near the end. On this rough end a fine even piece of cotton-wool is carefully rolled to any desired size, according to the patency of the cervical canal. This holder thus prepared is charged with any kind of fluid and applied with ease to any desired part. Dr. W. Playfair recommends a soft metal bougie of similar shape, but it possesses no advantage over its wooden competitor, and is not so good for the use of the mineral acids, as it is acted upon by them. Before leaving this subject we may say Dr. Athill strongly commends nitric acid as a local application in this disease.

Lecture XII. is devoted to the consideration of Chronic Inflammation of the Cervix, and endometritis and endo-cervicitis, and their treatment, and is replete with all that is known upon the subject.

The remaining three lectures are devoted to the subjects of uterine displacements, enlargements and the different forms of malignant growths, and are in keeping with the general excellent tenor of the work.

No one can rise up from the perusal of this work without feeling he has gained many valuable suggestions with regard to the treatment of diseases of women. We cordially commend the work to every member of the profession as the best small work extant. The book is to be had of Messrs. Dawson & Brothers, St. James street, Montreal.

Report of Societies.

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

MEETING HELD MARCH 7TH, 1873.

Dr. R. Palmer Howard in the chair.

Dr. Thomas Simpson read a case of a woman who had been in labour twenty-six hours, and had been attended by an ignorant midwife. He found her exhausted; countenance anxious; pulse rapid and small; genitals swollen and contused; vagina tumid, dry and hot; all intolerant of pressure and manual examination. Both arms of child protruding, flaccid; the right humerus broken. The child lying across pelvis, shoulders forced into brim, its head flexed backwards, and the occiput resting between the scapulae.

The uterus was in a state of continuous contraction and embracing the child. The midwife had been pulling at the child for hours. The alarming symptoms demanded immediate delivery, and as he was far out of the reach of professional advice he had to act entirely on his own responsibility without assistance. Version was impossible, child in all probability dead. The blunt hook was passed over the neck steadied by an assistant, and the neck severed little by little by means of strong scissors. The delivery was rapidly effected, and the placenta came away immediately.

Dr. Simpson said, there has been a great deal of difference of opinion as to the relative merits of decapitation and evisceration in these cases. British practitioners were, as a general rule, averse to the former and older operation; the chief objection being that after the delivery of the body the extraction of the head was often attended with considerable difficulty and delay. Of late years, however, decapitation has come into favour, and is practiced by some of the leading accouchers in Europe. Sir James Simpson considered it a safer operation than evisceration, and easier of performance. It must be remembered in favour of evisceration that throughout we maintain a control over the head, and are able to exert considerable extraction force by means of the attached body, and if further instrumental assistance be necessary, the crotchet, or perforator or forceps may be more readily and expeditiously used.

A brief discussion ensued, and a vote of thanks having been passed to Dr. Simpson, the Society adjourned.

BIRTH.

At Cornwall, Ontario, on the 22nd instant, the wife of T. B. Tracy, M.D., of a daughter.

DIED.

In this city, on the 23rd inst., Charles Picault, Esq., M.D., eldest son of P. E. Picault, Esq., M.D., Vice-Consul for France.

At Longueuil, on the 26th instant, at the age of 34 years and 4 months, Rosalie Brauneis, beloved wife of Dr. La Roque, M.P.P.

On March 9th, at St. Germain, P.Q., after a short illness, Thomas E. Foster, second son of Dr. W. E. Foster, of West Shefford, P.Q., aged 15 years.

At Philadelphia, on the 26th February, Hugh L. Hodge, M.D., aged 77 years, late Professor of Obstetrics in the University of Pennsylvania. He entered upon the duties of this chair in 1835, and fulfilled them till 1863, when advancing years compelled him to resign. In 1869 he published a work "On the treatment of Diseases of Women and Children," and in 1864, "On the principles and practice of Obstetrics."

At his residence Staten Island, New York, on Sunday, the 2nd March, Robert Nelson, M.D., aged 79 years, formerly of Montreal, brother of the late Dr. Alfred Nelson.

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