

## Societies.

### MCGILL UNDERGRADUATES' MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The regular fortnightly meeting of this Society was held on Friday night, Jan. 22nd, at the Medical Building.

The chair was filled by the President, Mr. W. L. Barlow, B.A., but the attendance, on account of the *Conversazione* and other attractions, was not as large as usual. The papers fully sustained the high order which this organization has set itself, and were well received.

The first paper was on "The Face and its Expression in Disease," by Mr. B. W. Gillies, '98. It was exceedingly well written, and presented in a very interesting way the importance of this aid in diagnosis of disease, which, by reliance upon physical signs and instrumentation, was in danger of being neglected.

In the discussion which followed, some remarkable instances were cited at present in the Hospitals, in which the trained eye required no other evidence than the characteristic faces.

Mr. Harvey's paper on "The Sputum in Disease" covered the notable features of this second sign, which has received such an enlarged place in the modern microscopic age.

An athletic university received consideration by Mr. Hazard in his paper on "Muscular Development and its Relation to Health and Disease" some definite points being the necessity for reasonable and all-round exercise as an accompaniment of hard mental work, the bad effect of one form of athletics to the exclusion of all others, and the impossibility of muscular development alone overcoming inherited tendencies to disease. He did not forget to say that McGill needs a new Gymnasium.

The authors were presented with the thanks of the meeting for their carefully prepared papers.

The next meeting of the Society occurs on February 4th.

### THE MONTREAL VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The regular meeting of the Society took place on Thursday evening, Jan. 20th, at 8 p.m., in the library, No. 6 Union Avenue.

The First Vice-President, Professor Baker, oc-

cupied the chair, there being also present Professor Charles McEachran and a fair attendance of members. After roll call and the reading of the minutes for the previous meeting, the Secretary reported "Cadiot's Operative Surgery" as having been added to the Library, and was instructed to order "Coate's Pathology." The chairman then called upon Mr. Bell, who read a carefully prepared paper on the subject of Anaesthesia, in which, after briefly tracing the history of the use of anaesthetics from the third century up to the present time, he proceeded to discuss the various merits of the drugs now in vogue for that purpose.

Chloroform and ether were fully compared under the heading of General Anaesthetics, whilst the methods of administration, contraindications, and symptoms of danger during their employment were carefully described. Operating, he stated, should not be commenced till the subject was fully under the influence of the drug, for the reason that any external stimulus might inhibit the important centres in the bulb, and neglect of this precaution was nearly always the cause of death in dental surgery, whilst but a small quantity of the agent being used was required, once complete anaesthesia was produced, when administered by an expert. Paralysis of the respiratory centre followed by that of the cardiac centre were the dangers to be feared, as had been proved by the valuable work done by the commission appointed through the generosity of the Government of Hyderabad, and for this reason ether was generally preferred, owing to its depressing effect on these centres being less than that of chloroform. As sequelae to the use of these drugs, he mentioned 21 cases of pneumonia out of a total of 338 in which they had been employed.

For dogs, he endorsed the general opinion that morphine was the most suitable agent for producing anaesthesia, and pointed out the large doses they could tolerate as compared with man. Under the heading of Local Anaesthetics, he considered cocaine to be most valuable, in from a 1 to 10 per cent. solution, freshly prepared, especially for operations on the eye of the horse, whilst several major operations, for which no other drug had been employed, were reported, as were instances of its successful use in the diagnoses of obscure lamenesses.