

THE

MONTREAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XVII.

JUNE, 1889.

No. 12.

Original Communications.

ON THE ALTERATIONS OF THE MYOCARDIUM FOLLOWING SECTION OF THE EXTRA-CARDIAC NERVES. BY G. FANTONI.

Translated from "Il Pisani," by DR. JOSEPH WORKMAN.

Eichhorst and Zander, having studied, in pigeons, the alterations produced in the myocardium by bilateral section of the vagus, found a fatty degeneration of the heart, which was attributed by the former to the absence of the influence of the vagus on the cardiac muscle, and by the latter to inanition. Zander sought for the reasons of his hypothesis in the fact that the animals constantly and progressively lost weight from the day of operation until death.

The writer having, through the introduction and with the support of Dr. Lustig, undertaken the study of this subject in the laboratory of the Hospital of Humbert I., with the view of reaching a more secure result and a more just interpretation of the facts, endeavored to avoid anticipatively a series of complications which might have a damaging influence over the ulterior course of the process—*e.g.*, advanced age, pregnancy, the re-uniting of the stumps of the cut nerve, suppuration of the wound, pulmonitis, fever from whatever cause arising, and decrease of weight of the animal.

By selecting young animals, sound and non-pregnant, and excluding from report those in which suppuration of the wound, or fever, had chanced to occur, the chief indications were satis-