

"A female child was born on 7th September, 1877, in Lucca, in the province of Valencia; at the age of two months the mother observed a scanty leucorrhœa, which continued; the size of both mammae promptly increased to the bulk of nuts, and continued to augment. At seven months the menstrual flow appeared, and returned regularly (lasting for three days) every lunar month, preceded by a leucorrhœal discharge. At the time of appearance of menstruation, there was a marked mammary activity, giving to the glands a rapid development. We should mention, besides, that the mons veneris, especially, and labia majora in a less degree, were covered with soft hairs; the voice became modified in key, and though no medium of expression except that of crying was at command, the sound of this had become more grave, completing the true picture of puberty announced in a manner so precocious."

The following is a description of the individual at the age of twenty months:—"She is of a sanguineo-lymphatic temperament and robust constitution. In the apparatus and functions of nutrition there is nothing abnormal. The first dentition has been completed, and she eats a quantity of food proportionate to her age, and digests it well. Notwithstanding numerous attempts made by the examiners to ascertain the exact rate of the pulse, they have been unable to do so more than approximately, in consequence of the impatience of the child, who prevented more than five pulsations being numbered at any time. The respiration and all other functions are quite normal, and the reparation of losses and the requirements of growth are perfectly accomplished, as the following figures will show:

Weight of body, 15 kilogrammes, = 23 lbs.

Height, 86 centimeters, = 34 inches.

Circumference of thorax, subaxillary, 56 centimeters, = 22 inches.

Major circumference of pelvis, 53 centimeters.

Do. " of the head, 49 "

The anterior fontanelle is still open. The sensibility and motility correspond to her age. She walks without support. The senses and their organs are quite sound, but as yet she has no other means of expression than sonorous crying. The organs and functions of reproduction are the only notable peculiarities."

The commissioners give a number of other details and measurements, which our readers might

find more tiresome than instructive; they relate to the genital externals and the breasts and nipples, and may be left to the fertile imagination of those who find pleasure in such depictions. It is rather interesting to be finally informed by the commissioners, that in consequence of change of climate, the return of the menses had not taken place in the last month, and that the child was out of health at the time. We should not be surprised hereafter to learn that the "*vello de monte de venres*" has disappeared, or has, at least, lost its "*color rubio claro*." The tardiness of speech arrival, in a girl, is ominous.

Correspondence.

A BAD CASE.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—Believing that when any member of the profession is dishonored or injured in a public manner, that the whole body suffers, and when such is the case some of the best interests of the people are endangered, I have concluded to ask you to publish the following "skeleton" of a case, in the hope that it may assist in some way to agitate the question of reform and protection generally, which are much needed, and serve as a warning to the medical men of this county in particular. The case is a bad one and I trust is "endemic."

Suit was brought by A. Fleming, M.D., to recover fees for professional attendance, in the latter part of 1872 and first part of 1873, upon Mrs. Crowsen, afflicted with uterine disease. The writ was issued 19th October, 1874, and entered on the docket of Westmoreland County Court, for trial, December term, 1874. The case was tried at Dorchester, N. B., 10th May, 1876, Judge Botsford presiding. Dr. F. produced credentials and proved services rendered, etc., the lawyers going into all particulars of the disease and treatment.

Dr. Roberts, of Dorchester, testified that the charges were reasonable. For the defence, Mr. and Mrs. Crowsen swore that the Dr. made a contract, "No cure, no pay," and that the Dr. told them that he had "deceived and wronged them," and also that he had injured Mrs. C.'s health by the treatment. Dr. Wilson, of Dorchester, was next called by the defendant, who tried to prove malpractice. He had seen Mrs. Crowsen the last time, about "one or two months" before Dr. Flem-