

Province of Quebec there was great and constant trouble, occurring year after year. Determined, and for a time successful, opposition was offered to the passing of such an Act as was required.

As a supply had to be obtained, Act or no Act, the outrage resulting from the want of such an act continued and increased, and culminated in the body of a prominent and well-known citizen being taken from the grave. This brought matters to a crisis, and opposition to the passing of the Act having ceased, it became law, and there is now no trouble, there are no outrages such as used to be occurring almost weekly during a great part of the year, and the needs of science are provided for.

In Ontario as the Act now is, the supply will suffice for every purpose, provided no opposition is made to its being carried out. And we look for this from the proper officials. And who are the proper parties to instruct such officials as manage our jails, industrial homes, hospitals, etc.?

Surely medical men all over the country, alone are competent to do this fully and well, for they know as no other men do, how foolish opposition of the kind we complain of is, and what injury must arise from it, if it does not cease. Medical men should make it their business to put the members of our Legislature right on this important subject, so that mischief and injury may not be done by members allowing themselves to be carried away by the one-sided representations of those who from being more kind-hearted than intelligent, have permitted themselves to be influenced against an Act which is not only indispensable, but most beneficent.

ETIOLOGY OF ACUTE CEREBRAL AND CEREBRO SPINAL-MENINGITIS.

It has been recognized since the beginning of this century that a form of the above disease is epidemic; as also that sporadic cases occur at any time. The classical "spotted fever" form is not met with nearly so frequently now as it was a quarter or half a century ago, when epidemics occurred chiefly in the winter and spring.

Leaving out the predisposing causes, such as age, sex, environment, etc., we wish to call atten-

tion to the interesting fact that an acute meningitis may be due to a great many infective agents, and that unless it be in the spotted fever of the older school men, no one specific cause exists.

The number of cases of inflammation of the meninges which do not conform to this classical type with eruption, are so numerous that the immediate factor or factors in their causation become matters of great interest not only to the pathologist but to the physician in daily practice. And that this is so, is evidenced by the number of investigations which are being carried on in regard to the immediate causation of the disease. The results of such investigations appear to be that so-called primary meningitis is extremely rare, if it exists at all; that traumatism is not one of the most frequent causes, and that by far the greater number of cases are directly traceable to some local or general acute infectious process. And it would be interesting to know how many of the cases due to trauma have been really caused by infection of the wound. Have we not all seen cases of fracture of the skull, and injury and disease of the cranial bones and soft parts about the head, run a benign course with no resulting meningitis? and so are not cases of meningitis said to be due to trauma, really due to trauma, plus infection of the lesion?

Dr. Biggs Wilder, *Quarter-Century Book*, has given the results of the bacterial examination of eighteen cases. He found in one case pure cultures of the anthrax bacillus; in one case bacillus coli communis; in one case B. coli communis and proteus vulgaris; in four cases the pneumo-bacillus of Fränkel; in two cases the streptococcus pyogenes; in one case the diplococcus intracellularis meningitidis, and in two cases a mixed infection.

He also draws the following conclusions:

1. "Purulent or sero-purulent meningitis is always microbic in its origin.
2. "Many cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis do not differ from cerebral meningitis except in the extent of pia affected. The etiological factor may be the same.
3. "Cerebro-spinal meningitis is usually primary.
4. "Cerebral meningitis is usually secondary to some infectious disease, and is only occasionally primary.
5. "When the disease is secondary, the cause