

twelve or sixteen layers may be used according to the amount of anticipated discharge; this should be applied over the wound as soon as the fluid is all away; until it is applied there should be no intermission in the play of the spray around the wound. If it be considered desirable to wipe the side before applying the dressing, this should be done with a cloth dipped in a solution of carbolic acid twice the strength of that used for the spray. A piece of some waterproof material should be applied over the gauze, and the whole fastened round the chest. The dressing should be changed on the following day, and afterwards every second, third or fourth day, according to the amount of discharge. If it be desired to keep the wound open, this may be done by inserting a bit of antiseptic gauze between its edges. The spray must always be kept playing on and around the wound while the dressing is being changed.

The chief advantages of the above mode of treatment are: (1) that the withdrawal of the fluid is effected more speedily and efficaciously than by any other mode; (2) that there is no trouble either to physician or patient, with drainage-tubes or other inconvenience; (3) that the entrance of air, with whatever germs or other ingredients it may happen to contain, is efficiently guarded against; and 4 that the patient need not be confined to bed, but may even take open air exercise before the wound is closed (if his general state permit it) without interfering with the efficacy of the treatment. In some cases this last recommendation is one of great importance.

TODD ON ABLATION OF A CANCER OF THE NECK OF THE UTERUS IN A PREGNANT WOMAN.

Dr. Walton Todd (*Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal*, Dec. 1872) thinks that the dangers of operation on the gravid uterus have been exaggerated. He relates a case of a woman, aged thirty six, suffering from cancer of the posterior lip when two months pregnant. There was considerable hæmorrhage, which was arrested by a tampon of perchloride of iron. In spite of the complication of erysipelas of the face, she recovered and went to full term, and was confined naturally of a healthy child. The urgent reason for the operation was the intense pain in the hip and abdomen, which disappeared after the amputation of the neck.

THE REGULAR PROFESSION IN PHILADELPHIA.

The *Philadelphia Medical Register* states there are in that city 699 regular physicians; of these, 50 are on the retired list.

THE CAUSE OF COLLAPSE IN DIPHTHERIA.

Professor Molser, of Greifswalde, has published two cases of sudden collapse during apparent recovery from diphtheria. They give a somewhat different theory for the cause of death than has been urged by Trousseau. In fact this complication is barely mentioned by the latter author. Niemeyer describes such cases as those whose general condition has not

excited much apprehension, or, in fact, has been regarded as satisfactory, until without warning of any kind, they fell into a collapse. In other cases still profound syncope has occurred a number of times, at last ending in death.

A great deal of discussion has taken place with regard to the implication of the nervous system in the pathological changes, but in many cases no lesion whatever could be discovered. Wagner was the first to call attention to the fact that in these cases there was usually some change in the muscular tissue of the heart.

In the two cases cited by Mosler collapse was sudden and unexpected, the first taking place on the fifteenth, and the second on the fifth day. In both of them the walls of the heart were found dilated, and the seat of fatty degeneration. The trabeculæ in each case were flattened down.

The author makes the practical deduction that this demonstrates how necessary it is to adopt a tonic and stimulant method in treating this disease.—*Archiv der Heilkunde*, 1873.

THE MEDICAL RECORD of London has changed its name to *The London Medical Record*. This is as it should be. There will now be no danger of confounding one journal with others of a similar name.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE.

SUPERIOR COURT, MONTREAL.

May 31, 1873.

BEFORE JUDGE JOHNSON.

BOWKER vs. BEERS.—The parties are both dentists residing here; and the Plaintiff brings his action against the Defendant for having, with intent to injure the Plaintiff in his character personally and professionally, written and published in the March number of the *Canada Journal of Dental Science* certain commentaries on another article that had appeared in the January number of the *Canada Medical Journal*, signed by the Plaintiff. The *Canada Journal of Dental Science* is printed at Hamilton, in Ontario, but the publication by Defendant in Montreal is what is complained of in the present case, and it is proved that the *C. J. of Dental Science* was circulated here, and received by five witnesses, and also that the Defendant is one of the editors and publishers of it. This is all there is as to the fact of publication here. What is in issue under the 2nd plea, and under the circumstances, I hold it to be enough.

1st. The Defendant, by his plea, admits that he wrote the article complained of, and said that it was partly provoked and called for by the previous production of Dr. Bowker, to which it was an answer. The subject of this controversy was the use of amalgam by dentists for filling cavities in the teeth, and the Plaintiff commenced the discussion in the *Canada Medical Journal*. It cannot be said that it was not a fit subject for discussion in the interest of dentists and of their customers. The only ground of