

with bichloride, dressed with iodoform and jute dressing, and left undisturbed. Of course, if the temperature rose, it was wise to examine and change the dressing. He considered this a case which a few years ago would have demanded amputation.

Dr. R. J. B. HOWARD said that Esmarch reported a case where there were three compound fractures of the leg, thigh, and forearm. The treatment used was similar to Dr. Shepherd's and a good recovery followed.

Dr. JOHNSTON exhibited the following pathological specimens :

1. *The Cord and Brain* from a case of non-tubercular cerebro-spinal meningitis in a child. Patient was suddenly seized with severe pain in the head and vomiting. A few days before death ecchymotic spots appeared over the chest and arms. The illness only lasted a week.

2. *The Uterus and Heart* from a case of malignant endocarditis in a patient suffering from puerperal fever. Patient did well for the first twelve days after confinement, when she was suddenly seized with rigors, her temperature running up to 105°. Nothing local was found to account for this. There was no pain in the abdomen. The heart showed endocarditis, with vegetations over the valves. The uterus showed signs of septic endometritis. There was also a diphtheritic-looking membrane in the cervix and on the inner sides of the labia. There were infarcts in the kidneys and spleen, but no pyæmic abscesses.

Dr. J. C. CAMERON read a paper entitled

*Notes on the Determination and Causation of Sex.*

By P. W. P. MATTHEWS, LL.D., M.R.C.S.E., Etc.,

Dominion Coroner for the North-West Territories and Medical Officer of the Hudson Bay Company, etc.

of which the following is an abstract :—

From earliest times, men have been anxious to learn the sex of the foetus in utero, and for this purpose many quaint methods have been devised. The following aphorisms enunciated by Hippocrates are to this day believed and practised by midwives in the East :

1. If the child be a male the mother will have a good color ; but if a female, a bad color.

2. The male foetus is usually seated on the right side, the female on the left.

The ancient astrologers directed a drop or two of the mother's milk to be squeezed out upon a

clean knife or glass, or upon the finger-nail. If the milk spreads about, the child is a female ; if it remains still the child is a male.

M. Venette, the author of a popular treatise in France, directed that if a son is desired the generative act should be performed when the wind is in the north. Others held that the right testicle secretes female sperm and the left male ; others that the right ovary discharges male ovules and the left female, and directed the woman to lie on the right side during coitus if a male child is wanted. This belief still lingers among some of the Hudson Bay Indians.

Pythagoras thought that a vapor descended during coitus from the brain and nerves of the embryo, the grosser tissues being derived from the blood and humors found in the uterus.

Empedocles affirmed that a portion of the embryo was contained in the sperm and a portion in the germ, the child being formed by the union of the two.

Hippocrates taught that conception takes place in the uterus by the mixture of due proportions of the male and female elements, sex depending upon which is stronger.

Aristotle held that the material parts of the embryo are formed by the catamenial blood, and that the male semen imparts the principal of life when the body is formed.

In later times, Descartes and his followers affirmed that a sort of fermentation takes place when the male and female seminal fluids are mingled, a foetus being the result ; while, according to the chemical school, the acid male secretion mixing with the alkaline female secretion causes a sort of double decomposition, a foetus being a precipitate.

In 1667, Ludwig Hamum contended that an immense number of animalcules exist in the semen of all male animals, which contain the perfect rudiments of the future animal, and that the female simply supplies the proper nidus or habitat and suitable nourishment. The discovery of movement in the minute seminal particles seemed to confirm this theory ; while some writers went so far as to say that these animalcules are of different sexes and copulate so as to engender male and female offspring.

Thury of Geneva propounded the doctrine that in animals, males are always produced when completely matured ova are fecundated, and females when the ova are less mature. Thus by serving