

Proceedings of Societies.

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

MONTREAL, MAY 16, 1879.

A regular meeting of the above society was held this evening, the President, Dr. Henry Howard, in the chair.

Dr. Osler exhibited a kidney which had undergone amyloid degeneration in a patient who also had syphilitic disease of the rectum. The patient had been in the Montreal General Hospital under the care of Dr. Reddy. The chief symptoms during life were albuminuria and profound anæmia, with slight œdema of the ankles. On post-mortem examination the kidneys were found enlarged and in a condition of advanced amyloid degeneration. The liver was in a similar condition, but neither the liver nor the spleen were enlarged. No deposits of pus were seen in any of these organs. The uterus, vagina, and bladder were healthy. The rectum, however, had the characteristic appearance of syphilis; namely, great thickening of its lower third, stenosed, and the mucus membrane for three inches above the anus was gone, and replaced by firm, fibroid tissue. Extending from the posterior wall were several sinuses passing into pockets of pus. The only other evidence of syphilis was a suspicious ulceration of the throat. Dr. Osler remarked that the majority of these cases occur in women.

Dr. A. Lapthorn Smith then read a paper on "Chorea," giving a detailed account of several cases and expressing his belief that this disease is due to a defective nutrition of the motor ganglia of the brain.

Dr. F. W. Campbell mentioned that he had three years ago a case of Chorea, so severe that he had to keep the child for a whole week under the influence of chloral. The treatment he adopted was iron before meals, and arsenic after.

Dr. Roddick said that he had attended a lady in February for pneumonia, and on visiting her to-day decided choreic movements of the left side were noticed. He ordered in this case .30 min. doses of dialysed iron three times a day.