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ART. VIII.—*Statistics of the University Lying-in Hospital, Montreal.* By ARCHIBALD HALL, M.D., Physician Accoucheur to the same; Professor of Midwifery, &c. University of McGill College; President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada; Honorary Fellow of the Obstetrical Society of London, &c., &c.

The importance of Statistics is now acknowledged in the different Medical Sciences, and they have been happily brought to bear upon the settlement of many disputed points. But in none is their influence of such moment as in Midwifery, as they have established with a degree of precision which cannot be questioned, many highly important principles, if they can be so called, which lie at the foundation of its science and practice, and it is here, far more than in Medicine or Surgery, that their great influence must be chiefly confessed. Nature always operates by laws which we are enabled to appreciate only by this means, while at the same time, we become enabled by the same means to estimate the slightest deviation from them. The greater the amount of statistical information, therefore, which can be brought to bear upon certain given points, the more surely will these become established as principles or laws, and it is with the view of contributing to the mass of information which we already possess, on many interesting subjects connected with midwifery, that I throw the following results into the common fund; but, before entering directly upon the more immediate subject of this paper, it may be well to premise a few remarks on the history of the Institution, whose operation has furnished them, by way of shewing its advantages as a means of studying obstetrics practically.

The first Lying-in-Hospital established in Montreal, was founded by the late Dr. MacNider, in the year 1841, and went into very successful operation. In consequence, however, of a refusal to allow the students of the University access to it on account of the practical advantages which it was thought capable of affording, (Dr. MacNider at that time being a lecturer on midwifery in the Montreal School of Medicine,) it was deemed proper about a couple of years afterwards by the Professors in the University of McGill College, to found one in connection with the University, and to place its professional control in the hands of the Professor of Midwifery, intimately associating it with the chair.