

sectarian, and supported entirely by voluntary contributions, of which latter enough were handed in during the first month to carry on the work during a whole year. It is the only special hospital for diseases of women in Montreal, and will be moulded on the pattern of the celebrated New York State Women's Hospital in New York City. It is managed by a board of thirty of the principal ladies of the city, assisted by an advisory board of three laymen and three physicians. The staff consists of Sir James Grant, M.D., K.C.M.G., consulting physician; Wm. H. Hingston, M.D., LL.D., consulting surgeon; A. Laphorn Smith, B.A., M.D., M.R.C.S. England, surgeon-in-chief; H. Lionel Reddy, C.M., M.D., surgeon; S. F. Wilson, C.M., M.D., assistant surgeon and registrar; Dr. Sylvester, assistant surgeon, and Dr. Letellier de St. Just, assistant surgeon. An anæsthetist and a pathologist will be appointed shortly. The outdoor service is attended to by the assistant surgeons from 4 to 5 p.m. every day, at which hour the surgeon-in-chief makes his daily visit, and the most urgent cases are admitted. The hospital is absolutely free to women who are poor and sick, and who are residents of the city. Patients from outside the city will be admitted on payment of a nominal charge. The operation days are Thursdays and Fridays at 10.30 a.m., when physicians who have not been attending infectious diseases will receive a hearty welcome. The hospital is situated in the choicest and healthiest part of the city, 1000 Dorchester street, near Mackay street, and may be reached by the St. Catherine and St. Antoine street cars, which each pass within one block of the door.

THE ANTIQUITY OF MAN.—In the current number of the *Nineteenth Century, Lancet*, Prof. Prestwich adduces some new facts in support of the great antiquity of man on this planet. The history of opinion on this subject is curious. So recently as 1847 the Geological Society declined to publish a paper which aimed at showing that man co-existed with the extinct quaternary mammalia. Then came the researches of M. Boucher de Perthes, near Abbeville, which proved the existence of human weapons in the quaternary beds containing the fossils of the mammoth, woolly rhinoceros, hyæna, reindeer, etc. Then Professor Prestwich, Sir John Evans, and others showed

that undoubted worked flints were present in shingle containing mammalian remains, and so men of science became satisfied that palæolithic man existed in post-glacial times. Here the question rested for a time, but in the course of time inquiry was naturally directed to the problem whether the relics met with in the valley drifts were the work of the earliest race of men. "The workmanship on some specimens of the palæolithic implements was not very much inferior to that of neolithic times, and what was known of the human frame indicated but slight, if any, inferiority in its physical structure to that of modern man. All led one to suppose that ruder ancestors preceded palæolithic man." The most important recent discoveries have been on the North Downs in Kent. Here implements of various kinds—scrapers, drills, hand-picks, roughly chipped flints, etc.—have been found, and Professor Prestwich is disposed to assign a very high antiquity to them. These implements appear to have been used for hammering, for breaking bones, for scraping skins, bones, and sticks, and for chipping and trimming other stones for use. He believes that their age must be assigned to some time previously to, or contemporaneously with, some part of the glacial period. According to Professor Prestwich the appearance of palæolithic man—that is to say, the man of the valley drifts—does not extend probably beyond a distance of about 20,000 to 30,000 years, and his disappearance at about from 10,000 to 12,000 years, from our own time. Other authorities, such as Croll, have assigned a much more remote period; but while absolute agreement on a matter so difficult is not to be expected, it is evident that geologists are more and more becoming of opinion that a very high antiquity of man is practically certain.

THE INFLUENCE OF PREGNANCY UPON DENTAL CARIES.—As a result of a study of the teeth during pregnancy, Peterson, *Dental Cosmos; Med. News*, arrives at the conclusion that dental caries is peculiarly liable to occur at this time. He defines such caries as a condition characterized by molecular disintegration of the normal constituents of the teeth as a result of the action of certain pathogenic micro-organisms which produce lactic acid, which, in turn, decalcifies the enamel and exposes the dentine to the attack of the