THE

MONTREAL MEDICAL JOURNAL

VOL. XXXVII.

MAY, 1908.

NOTES ON THE MAYOS' SURGICAL CLINIC.

BY

A. LAPTHORN SMITH, M.D.,

Surgeon-in-Chief of the Samaritan Hospital, Gynacologist to the Western Hospital and to the Montreal Dispensary, Montreal.

From a surgical standpoint the most interesting ten days of my life have recently been spent at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, Minnesota, and I thought it almost a duty, as well as a pleasure, on my return to tell the members of the Society something of the work being carried en in that little western town of nine thousand inhabitants by these remarkable men, William and Charles Mayo.

As it took me several hours to find it on the map. I might mention that it is situated 347 miles from Chicago on the North Western Railway, and the train leaving Chicago at eight at night lands one at Rochester sharp at nine next morning. Ten minutes later we can be at the Hospital, having missed only four or five operations for various kinds of hernia. There are two operating rooms, and they do on an average two operations an hour in each room. As there were twentyfour operations on the list for that Tuesday morning and they began at eight, it was two o'clock when they finished. At two o'clock they go down to their office in the town where their forty assistants, some of them partners, help them to make a diagnosis by every possible means; one doctor taking down the history and another taking the blood count. another making a urinalysis, and another does nothing else all day but Then another takes an X-ray, while another makes analyse the faces. a cystoscopic examination. These examinations generally take a week or more, and when the scientific examination is complete the patient is brought before Dr. Graham, the chief of the office staff, who makes his clinical examination and diagnosis.

Rochester is the centre of the richest farming country in America, and the streets are lined with farmers' waggons as though every day

No.

Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal, on 3rd April, 1903.