

I am at a loss to account for so much constitutional disturbance from so small a cause, *i. e.*, the adherence of the prepuce to the glans. Is it altogether reflex irritation? or may it not be absorption of smegma and consequently blood poisoning? I would like to hear from some of your many readers on the subject.

Correspondence.

FOOD vs. PHYSIC.

To the Editor of THE CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—“God sends the meat but the devil sends the cooks” is so true that it requires no argument, and I am inclined to think no one gets more experience on this painful subject than the country doctors. How many drunkards have been made, how many just on the dangerous brink, have gone down to the pit from bad cooking will never be known, and let me add, how many obstetrical operations have not turned out as expected from the same cause; let me give one case that might have had a different termination. I had been called out of bed, was up a good part of the night, tired and faint, and had to eat or try to eat the vile stuff that was set before me. The case was one I well knew, contracted cervix, with a very slow dilating os. I began to think I should fail, so I declared I must go home, and would be back in two hours. I told my wife for heaven's sake to get me some dinner. A well-cooked mutton chop and a glass of ale made a new man of me, and I went back and used the forceps, and both did well, all owing to the chop. We all know Domine Sampson was a different man, after partaking of the contents of Meg's kettle, to what he was before. Verily, said the Domine, verily I feel mighty elevated and afraid of no evil which may befall me. Now, if those who are in good health suffer so much from poorly cooked food, what must it be to the sick, and woe be unto the patient if the doctor knows nothing about cooking. And how is the young doctor to know if he is not taught? Is it not possible to have a short course of dietetics added to the curriculum. There is no need for more lectures—let the *materia medica* be purged of all the obsolete articles, and let the time devoted to them and to the preparation of chemicals, be utilized for this subject. Let the student be taught plainly what

food to give in certain diseases and in certain states of the system, and full explanation *why* such food is required. Then how to cook it, and to judge if it is done properly. It is very properly said, send a young fellow into a carpenter shop to learn the use of tools if you intend him for a surgeon. So I say to make a real good physician, send him into the kitchen. Among the sick, food is of as much consequence as physic. Let me also add a word of praise for that excellent work—Manual of Dietetics by Forthergill.

F. C. MEWBURN. M. D.

Reports of Societies.

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

Montreal, 5th Nov. 1886.

The regular semi-monthly meeting was held this evening. Dr. Cameron in the chair.

Dr. Proudfoot exhibited a very interesting specimen, the brain of a young woman who had died from cerebral abscess, following the removal of polypus of the ear about a week before death. The woman had been infected with syphilis some few years ago. The symptoms of abscess were not well defined, or otherwise it would have been a hopeful case for trephining.

Dr. Johnston exhibited a specimen of colloid cancer of the rectum.

Dr. Shepherd shewed a sacculated kidney—part of the cells were filled with pus and part with clear fluid. On microscopic examination it was found to be of a tubercular character. Dr. S. also exhibited a most interesting specimen of stone (3ii and 3iij) removed from the pelvis of the kidney. It is probably the largest specimen on record, and the patient is doing well.

Dr. Kennedy exhibited the ovaries and tubes of a patient, who some years ago had been infected with gonorrhœa; the fimbriated extremities of the tubes were occluded.

Dr. Wm. Gardner gave a paper upon “Glimpses of Abdominal Surgery in Europe during the past summer.” The paper was interesting, but brought out no new facts of interest, not already known to the profession. The Dr. is a great admirer of Mr. Lawson Tait, about whose dexterous operations he chiefly spoke, crediting Mr. Tait (upon hearsay evi-