

# THE CANADA LANCET.

**A Monthly Journal of Medical and Surgical Science  
Criticism and News.**

*Communications solicited on all Medical and Scientific subjects, and also Reports of Cases occurring in practice. Advertisements inserted on the most liberal terms. All Letters and Communications to be addressed to the "Editor Canada Lancet," Toronto.*

AGENTS.—DAWSON BROS., Montreal; J. & A. McMILLAN, St. John, N.B.; GEO. STREET & Co., 30 Cornhill, London, Eng.; M. H. MAHER, 23 Rue Richer, Paris.

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1884.

*The LANCET has the largest circulation of any Medical Journal in Canada.*

## CANADA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

We trust our readers and the profession generally will remember that the meeting of the Canada Medical Association, as noticed in our May number, will take place this year in Montreal, on the 25th, 26th, and 27th of August, under the presidency of Dr. Sullivan, of Kingston. The interest in this meeting will be greatly enhanced by the presence of the members of the British Association for the advancement of science. Their meeting begins on the 27th, and several of the members have expressed their intention of being present at our meeting. Dr. Tait, of Manchester, has promised to read a paper on "Abdominal Surgery." We trust the members of the medical profession throughout the Dominion will be present in large numbers. This will probably be the only opportunity for some years to come, of seeing and hearing many of the leading scientific men of Great Britain. Certificates entitling members to return tickets at a fare of one and one-third—good from August 22nd to September 5th—may be had on application to Dr. Osler, General Secretary, Montreal, or to any of the local secretaries, viz., Drs. Bray, Chatham; Bell, Montreal; Coleman, St. John, N. B.; Black, Halifax; and Betts, Winnipeg. Members leaving Toronto by the Saturday boat at 2 p.m., or the Sunday evening train will reach Montreal in time for the opening session on Monday the 25th, at 10 a.m. The local committee has secured the Synod Hall, in connection with the Cathedral, as the place of meeting.

## RABIES INOCULATION.

It is now about four years since Pasteur commenced his experiments and researches into the nature of hydrophobia, the results of which have been recently given to the public. Although the profession and scientists generally may not be very sanguine as to the grand results which this distinguished *savant* claims, yet enough has been advanced to warrant the French Government in appointing a commission of scientific men of indisputable authority to investigate the matter and to test the value of the interesting experiments instituted by Pasteur. The names of Vulpian, Villemin, Bert and Bouley are a sufficient guarantee of the character and reliability of the proposed enquiry. Pasteur in the course of his experiments hit upon the expedient of inoculating the brain of the animal with the virus of rabies. The skull is trephined with a small instrument and the virus introduced. By this method the action of the virus is much hastened, the effects being manifest in a few days, instead of from twelve to fourteen days. In fact Pasteur thinks he has in this way demonstrated that rabies is a malady of the brain. In the course of his experiments he found that the virus, after having passed through three monkeys in succession, becomes so attenuated that its introduction into a dog is harmless. But when the virus is passed through the rabbit and guinea-pig in like manner, it increases in virulence, becoming more virulent than the virus of the rabid dog. The plan proposed is to take the virus from a rabbit dying after inoculation, and inoculate this successively in other rabbits, and finally in the dog, which is thus rendered refractory to the rabies.

The test experiments proposed by Pasteur consist, first, in causing twenty unprotected dogs and twenty "vaccinated" dogs (presumably protected thereby from the poison) to be bitten by dogs in a rabid state; and, second, in artificially inoculating with the virus of rabies two other sets of twenty dogs, respectively vaccinated and unvaccinated. "The twenty vaccinated dogs," says Pasteur, "will resist the poison, and the other twenty will all die of madness."

The importance of this discovery, if true, cannot be over-estimated, but we must not be too ready to express unqualified approval and endorsement of Pasteur's views. It will be observed that he