

THE
Montreal Medical Journal.

VOL. XVII.

JULY, 1888.

No. 1.

THE ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL.

But little progress has yet been made towards rendering the magnificent gift to this institution available for its benevolent object. The site selected by the donors was an irregular block of ten acres attached to the Mount Royal Park, and was the property of the city. When the donation was offered, the City Council agreed to grant the site to the corporation of the Royal Victoria Hospital. Later on, however, it was suggested to the municipal authorities that the reservoir which contains the water-supply of the city lay dangerously close to this spot, and that a general hospital in that locality might be the means of infecting the water and causing epidemic disease. On the strength of these representations two medical gentlemen were appointed to look into the question and report,—Dr. Geo. Ross acting on behalf of the Hospital, and Dr. S. Lachapelle, of St. Henri, on behalf of the city. These gentlemen held several meetings and discussed the sanitary aspects of the proposed site. As they were unable to agree upon the main principles of the question, they sent in separate reports. Dr. Ross' report deals with the subject of ærial infection, and shows that the experience of recent exhaustive examinations into the possibility of infection from contagious hospitals favor the idea that the communication of these diseases is thus effected only within extremely narrow limits—that the distance between the nearest point of the hospital and the reservoir would be many times greater than any such limits—that it has never been shown that a large body of water is capable of thus receiving germs of disease through the