

the additional action of promoting a more rapid peeling, so that this process may be completed one or two weeks earlier than the ordinary period.

Dr. SMITH agreed with Dr. McConnell's statements. He made a practice of using carbolized vaseline and giving a hot bath every 24 hours, and tried to promote sweating. He gave copious drinks of water to flush out the kidneys.

Dr. MILLS said that whatever were the shortcomings of the local health board, we should not take shelter behind them. There had been a serious delinquency on the part of the profession, and we might as well admit it. He would recommend that a deputation of the Society wait upon the City Council and urge the adoption of suitable measures for restraining the epidemic. Most of the cases in school children could be watched through the co-operation of the family physician. To close the schools would produce a panicky condition prejudicial to the community.

Dr. ARMSTRONG.—The reason why cases are not reported is that two families out of three object to having it done, and point out that their neighbors' cases are not reported. Placarding is of no use, as intelligent people will warn others of the danger, and ignorant people will pay no heed to it. Nothing was accomplished by the antiquated methods of disinfection which constitute the only resource of the local health board; they make a little stink and do nothing more. Disinfecting was properly done only when the family physician went to the trouble, personally, of explaining how it should be carried out, and superintended it himself.

Dr. LACHAPPELLE could not agree with Dr. Armstrong. Two wrongs do not make a right. Whatever might be the faults of the local board, the profession was much to blame. If we, as a profession, had done our duty, we would have more right to complain. He approved of placarding, as it was likely that servants would not do their duty in warning people, whereas a placard warned everyone of the danger. He did not think the situation was severe enough to warrant such a step as closing the schools, and the well children would run just as much risk at home. The Society might depend upon the Provincial Board of Health doing their duty, however unpleasant it might be.

Dr. GORDON CAMPBELL said that some weeks ago, in a house fumigated by the city health officials, the clothing had not even been stripped off the infected bed. Some weeks later another case developed in this house. In St. Cunegonde absolutely nothing was done when cases were reported.

Dr. BELL, in summing up the discussion, said that if we first took the mote from our own eye we would be better prepared to remove the beam from that of the local health board. While sympathizing with what Dr. Armstrong

had said, still even when put in a false position, the members of the profession should be guided by their strong sense of duty, and do all in their power to check the spread of the disease. The present was a good time for the Society to express itself strongly to the incoming municipal council. It was simply disgraceful that Montreal had no place for quarantining scarlet fever, and through the absence of such a place we were now losing 50 lives weekly, not to speak of those who were afflicted with life-long consequences in the shape of affections of the ears or kidneys. He would suggest that the matter be referred to the Council, with power to add to their number and instructions to act.

Upon motion of Dr. MILLS, it was unanimously resolved that the Council should associate themselves with Dr. Lachapelle, and should take whatever action appeared necessary.

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## Progress of Science.

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### LIGATION OF THE BASE OF THE BROAD LIGAMENTS PER VAGINAM, INCLUDING THE UTERINE ARTERIES FOR FIBROIDS OF THE UTERUS.

Dr. Augustin H. Goelet, of New York, in a contribution to the *American Medico Surgical Bulletin*, June 1st, reports favorably upon this operation in his hands for the control of uterine hæmorrhage and reduction of fibroid growths. He believes it should be done in lieu of hysterectomy when that operation would involve too great a risk, and as a preliminary step with a view of avoiding the necessity of the more hazardous operation. When extensive attachments have not been formed which afford additional nutrition, considerable reduction has resulted even in growths of large size. When the operation has been done for smaller growths the result has been more satisfactory. In some instances complete atrophy has been reported. This result, as well as arrest of the uterine hæmorrhage, is accounted for by the diminished nutrition furnished the uterus and these growths by interference with the blood supply and nerve supply which are included by ligation of the base of the broad ligaments. It is estimated that the uterine arteries furnish the uterus with two-thirds of its blood supply, and it is reasonable to expect that a profound effect will be produced upon that organ and growths arising from the walls if this is suddenly cut off.

The sole danger in the operation is the risk of including the ureters in the ligatures, as they pass down behind the uterine arteries only half an inch from the cervix, and are consequently in the field of operation. Dr. Goelet suggests,