

An examination per vaginam or per rectum detects either obvious or obscure fluctuation. Unless an early exit to this matter be made, the disease will extend throughout the sub-peritoneal coat of the uterus, bladder, and rectum. I have known one case in which this cellular inflammation, commencing in the tissue around the rectum, and into which the abscess actually burst, extended upwards around the uterus and bladder, and burst at the umbilicus. I have seen several cases in which the matter made its way through the sacro-schiatic foramen, and presented along the line of the ischiatic nerve. Whenever the presence of pus is detected, and indeed whenever it is on good evidence even suspected, an exploring needle should be resorted to, followed if required, by a good sized chain trocar with its curved canula. In severe cases, nothing short of following up the examination whenever and wherever the presence of matter is indicated by local pain can afford a reasonable prospect of recovery. If, on examination by the rectum, a large collection of pus is detected, and when confirmed on examination per vaginam, a free incision by the side of the rectum through the perinæum is more readily executed, and will afford a freer exit to the matter than puncture by means of a trocar through the walls either of the vagina or rectum — *Lancet*

Obituary.

THE HON JOHN ROLPH, M.D., LL.D., M.R.C.S., ENG

The most distinguished member of the medical profession in Canada is no longer among us. In the ripeness of age, and with no little honour, one who has justly been called the Father of the Canadian medical profession, has ceased to work and to live. The Hon Dr. Rolph died at Mitchell on the night of the 19th October, at the age of 83. For half a century Dr. Rolph's name has been more or less familiar to the Canadian public, and upon several occasions he has occupied most conspicuous positions in the political world. A native of England, he first, if we mistake not, came to America during the war of 1812. The vessel in which he had sailed was captured on her way out by an American cruiser, and he became a prisoner of war. Har-