

## Society Proceedings.

### MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

*Stated Meeting, May 31st, 1889.—Continued.*

WM. GARDNER, M.D., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

*Microscopic Changes after Section of the Extra-Cardiac Nerves.*—DR. MILLS then read for himself and Dr. Workman a paper on the above subject, which appeared in the June number of this JOURNAL, page 881.

*Discussion.*—DR. WILKINS said that a paper involving such important changes in accepted theories required careful consideration. The results regarding the action of the trophic fibres of the cardiac nerves seem quite opposed to the conclusions arrived at by Goltz in his experiments on the sciatic nerve. Section of this nerve caused paralysis of the leg, dilatation of the blood-vessels, loss of strength, and wasting of the extremity, but no microscopic changes in the muscles could be found, even the muscular coats of the vessels remaining unchanged.

DR. STEWART asked if Dr. Mills considered the histological changes to be degenerative, or at first inflammatory, followed by degeneration. He could cite several cases of atrophic paralysis where the cause was inflammatory.

DR. GIRDWOOD related a case in which a bullet under the gluteus maximus produced pressure on the sciatic, resulting in coldness with lividity of the limb, followed by wasting and weakness. The bullet, which gravitated to the lower edge of the muscle, was removed, with complete recovery from all the symptoms.

DR. MILLS, in reply, explained that the experiment of Goltz referred to was instituted to settle the question of the nature of the vaso-motor fibres in the sciatic nerve and not the trophic nature of nerves. Sympathetic fibres entered into the composition of the vagus in all animals thus far examined. Besides, the accelerators of the heart were, in all animals, derived from the sympathetic. These fibres emerged from the spinal cord in the upper dorsal region, proceeded upwards, and might be given off to the heart either from the stellate ganglion or the inferior or the middle cervical ganglion. In man, the most important in all probability come from the middle cervical ganglion. The accelerator (sympathetic) fibres were the motor nerves of the heart. In reply to Dr. Stewart's question, Dr. Mills stated that