

From the foregoing statistics we are enabled to draw the following general conclusions.

The mortality of the mothers was as 1 to 114·6 admissions.

The mortality of the infants was to the whole births as 1 to 46·4.

The still-births were to the whole births as 1 to 60·9.

The recoveries in the still-births were to the deaths as 4 to 1.

That the mortality among the mothers occurred chiefly in primiparous women.

That the still-births occurred chiefly with male offspring.

That the chief mortality occurred also with the same.

That the average duration of labour was 7 hours, 35 minutes.

That the average time intervening between the rupture of the membranes and the delivery of the child, was 2 hours 48 minutes.

That upon the whole, the labours lasted longer with male than with female infants, and that the principal difficulties occurred chiefly with the former.

That by far the largest proportion of women were confined in their 40th week, or between the 273rd and 280th day, thus affording additional testimony to the law upon this point.

That the average weight of the infants was 7 lbs. 3 oz.

That the average length of the infants was 20·3 inches.

That the average length of the umbilical cord was 19·5 inches.

And that the average weight of the placenta was 1 lb. 4 oz.

In an ensuing paper I propose to analyse the labours, specifying the presentations and positions, with their relative prevalence; and conclude with a sketch of the peculiarities witnessed in the most important cases of parturition of which the books of the Hospital contain a record, whether occurring in my own time or in that of my predecessor.

Montreal, January 30th, 1860.

ART. IX.—*Contributions to Clinical Surgery and Medicine.* By ROBERT L. MACDONNELL, M.D., Surgeon to St. Patrick's Hospital, Montreal.

3. *On the propriety of Castration in certain cases of recent descent of the Testicle.*
4. *On Spermatozoa in the fluid of Hydroceles.*

My object in bringing forward the following cases, is to draw the attention of the profession to a point of practice as yet but little discussed, viz: the propriety of performing castration in cases other than those of malignant disease of the testicle, and particularly in certain examples of recent descent of that organ. Hitherto it has been laid down by surgical writers, that malignant disease of the testis, was the only affection for which this operation should be performed, and even within the last year or two, an eminent authority has asserted that "castration is only justifiable in cases of disease of the testicle, whose justly-suspected malignancy, leaves no hope of its restoration to health."\* Other writers, as

\* Skey's Operative Surgery, p. 610.