

The Canada Medical Record.

VOL. XXI.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY, 1893.

No. 5.

CONTENTS.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

The Importance of the Early Diagnosis and Repair of Lacerations of the Cervix Uteri, especially in view of their Relation to Cancer of the Uterus	79
Two Rares Cases in Obstetrics	103
Cases of Compound Fracture of the Lower Maxillary Bone.	105

SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS.

Annual Meeting of the Montreal Branch of the British Medical Association	107
Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal	107

Interseapulo Thoracic Amputation	107
Inguinal Colotomy	107
Dermatitis Exfoliativa	108
Fracture of Tibia in a Partridge	108
Pelvic Dermoid Cyst removed from a woman Six Months Pregnant ..	108
An Epidemic of Pthisis	111

PROGRESS OF SCIENCE.

Influenza	112
A National Quarantine in the United States	115
Isolated Tubercular Pericarditis ..	116
Proper Method of Applying Obstetric Forceps	117
Symphyseotomy	117

Torsion of Arteries	117
An Unusual Nomenclature	117

EDITORIAL.

The Medical Bill	118
Bradycardia	119

CORRESPONDENCE.

A Report on the Origin and Progress of the American-Berlin Medical Society	119
--	-----

BOOK NOTICES.

A Treatise on Surgery	120
-----------------------------	-----

Original Communications.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND REPAIR OF LACERATIONS OF THE CERVIX UTERI, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THEIR RELATION TO CANCER OF THE UTERUS.

By A. Laphorn Smith, M.D., M.R.C.S. Eng., Fellow of the American Gynecological Society, Professor of Gynecology in Bishop's University, Montreal.

The above topic for my paper has been suggested to me over and over again each time that a case of cancer of the uterus has come to me, generally in a condition too far advanced to permit of my extending any hope of cure by any operation known. Everyone of these cases was at one time a simple lacerated cervix, but many of them had been treated from six months to a year for ulceration with caustics, generally the solid nitrate of silver, until the delicate cylindrical epithelium of the cervical canal, which, exposed and everted, had already been too much injured by coitus and friction on the vagina during locomotion, was by the action of

the caustic completely destroyed, and was replaced by cicatricial tissue of new formation and low vitality. This is the weakest tissue in the economy, and offers the point of least resistance for the invasion of cancer.

It would be immensely to the advantage of the patient, which should always be our first consideration, but incidentally of no small moment to the family attendant and the specialist, if these cases of cancer were operated upon while there was yet a possibility of removing the whole of the diseased structures and every probability of effecting a cure. Delay can only lead to the injury of the patient, her doctor and the operator, and eventually, when the results are so unsatisfactory, it renders it difficult to induce even suitable cases to undergo the proper treatment.

How much better it would be for all concerned if the disease had been recognized when it was only a lacerated cervix, a few months after the occurrence of the accident, when it could have been completely cured by an operation which I feel justified in saying is absolutely devoid of danger, and which only requires, when performed early, from ten to fourteen days in bed.