

erous and curious observations. We will speak only of the conclusions:

The idea of murder is essentially contagious. For its manifestation, two factors are necessary: 1. Heredity or degeneracy. 2. Education, and under this is understood the influence of examples. The account of a crime given in detail by the press nearly always brings a series of crimes, the means of execution of which, so to speak, are figured upon the crime-type. The acts of cruelty to which people lend themselves during great political and social revolutions nearly always give evidence of the

influence upon the masses exercised by a few leaders. This is true imitative contagion. The prophylaxy of murders depends upon a healthy moral hygiene: 1. A healthy moral hygiene of the individuals. 2. The moralization of manners. 3. The regulation of the published accounts of crimes by the press. 4. A more reasonable severity by tribunals. We see then the great importance which the author attaches to good hygienic morals, and under this title we can only hope with him to see his conclusions adopted by competent authorities."

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

Toronto Medical Society.

STATED MEETINGS, *February 23rd, 1888.*

The President, Dr. Nevitt, in the chair.

Cases in Practice.—The first one presented was that of a child of nine years. It was under the care of Dr. Machell, who gave the following history:—The family had been four years in the country, and during the cold weather each year the child had been afflicted with an eruption, first in the flexures of the arms, then in the hollow of the back; again on the inner aspect of the thighs and now behind the knees. None of the family similarly affected; their food had been scanty this year.

The eruption was pustular, especially around the margins, scabby and bleeding in some places; serpiginous looking—one patch four inches, another one and a half inches in diameter but not circular. The skin around was thickened. The patches had been itchy with a watery discharge. No congestion around the sores. There was a stinging, burning pain apart from movement. It had improved in two days with zinc ointment. It was the general opinion of those present that it was a case of eczema.

Dr. Ferguson showed a case of sycosis from shaving. It was of two weeks standing and was being treated with mercurial ointment.

Dr. McPhedran recommended in cases of non-parasitic tinea an ointment of

Acid salicylic,	gr. xv.	
Lanolin,	3i.	M.

Dr. Machell treated tinea in the following manner:—The head was first well washed with

soap and water. Raw turpentine was then thoroughly rubbed in with a flannel until there was considerable stinging pain. Mercury was used thereafter. The turpentine destroyed the bacilli and recovery ensued in a few days.

Dr. MacCallum exhibited microscopically a section of the spinal cord taken from a man who had died of locomotor ataxia. The case had been five years under observation in the House of Providence. The chief symptoms in the case were, want of co-ordination and a feeling of dryness and discomfort in the posterior nasal region, due to want of secretion from atrophy of the mucous membrane. Death caused by a gastric and intestinal crisis of three weeks' standing.

March 1st, 1888.

A young man of twenty-three years was shown by Dr. Cuthbertson, with a tubercular disease of the right testicle. When only twenty, this testicle, without any apparent exciting cause, had become swollen and painful. This all disappeared and gave him no further trouble until two months ago, when it again enlarged, an abscess formed and broke, so that when first seen by his physician three weeks ago, there was a sinus leading down to the abscess cavity. A marked tubercular history was obtained from the patient.

Drs. Atherton and Olbright both favored the removal of the testicle.

Dr. Wishart showed a boy with some skin eruption of the face which he believed, from its appearance, to be scrofulous in its origin.

Dr. Doolittle related the history of a case where the uterus, after confinement, contracted a short