

pens that the one who does so makes anything by it, except loss of respect in the one who listens to him. How is it, that it is only in the medical profession jealousies of each other's success exist, and the motto of live and let live is forgotten? Want of education may be one of the causes, but some of the most eminent men of Europe have had only slim educations. Then, again, we have a large class who do not advance in their studies, and who remain where graduating day placed them. These men fall behind, both in knowledge and practice, and, as a natural result, will not hesitate to charge less than the intrinsic value of their services so long as they cut out a confrere. We have known some medical men take \$2.50 for an accouchment, because another charged \$5.00. Practices such as these do not help the profession any. We have known a professor, a person that every one supposed was possessed of every quality of a gentleman, disparage a brother professor to the students, simply because their opinions did not agree as to the justifiability of performing an operation upon a patient in whom disease was far advanced. When this is done in public, can it aid in maintaining the dignity of the profession?

I am, etc.,

GRUMBLER.

Montreal, August, 1873.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD.

DEAR DOCTOR,—I have heard that *certain* individuals have questioned the accuracy of a statement that appeared in the columns of the *Medical Record*, in an obituary notice of my late uncle, Dr. Robert Nelson, of New York and Staten Island. The article stated that he had operated for stone *sixty-five* times during his residence in this country. The operations and their number were cited by Dr. Hingston, in an able paper on "Lithotomy and Lithotrity," read before the Canadian Medical Association, and afterwards published in the *Record*.

Dr. Nelson operated during his long residence in Canada *sixty-nine* times, his last operation shortly before his death was his *eighty-first*, when three calculi were removed—two by the lateral operation: a foreign body still being felt, he introduced his finger into the rectum, and there felt the third stone, which had worked its way partly through the rectal parietes; a bistourie was introduced per rectum, the stone freed and removed. The patient recovered. The mortality attending his operations was exceedingly small.

Should any of the unbelieving "Thomases" be about to visit New York, now or at any time, it will afford me pleasure to furnish them with a letter of introduction to my cousin, Dr. Eugene Nelson, of No. 257, Fourth Avenue, where they can see the cabinet, and examine the collection.

Trusting that you will pardon this long letter, believe me to remain,

Yours very sincerely,

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Progress of Medical Science.

INFANTILE CONVULSIONS.

By H. CRIPPS LAWRENCE, L.R.C.P., Lond.

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Convulsions in infancy occur very frequently, and the rate of mortality therefrom is very high (73.3 per cent),* in relation to death arising from diseases of the nervous system, during the first year of life. In the following communication it is proposed to treat of infantile convulsions and eclampsia infantum with reference to (a) clinical symptoms, (b) pathology, (c) treatment.

(a) Clinical Symptoms:—

All observers agree in referring to convulsions as symptoms of some disease or disorder arising elsewhere than where the convulsive effects are manifested, and all seek for a causation, centric or eccentric, to explain these phenomena as manifested through the nervous system.

An ordinary infantile convulsion consists of three stages; the first is, *a period of tonic*, evidenced by stiffness and hardness of the muscles, "without shock," as Trousseau puts it, "an index of the gradual, but yet rapid shortening of their muscular fibres."

Then ensues "*a clonic stage*, wherein occur alternate contractions and relaxations of the muscles, independent of the will, which can neither suspend, moderate or excite them."

Thirdly, as a sequence of the seizure, but intimately associated with it, is "*a period of collapse, stupor, or coma*."

Eclampsia is an expression for a more severe form of convulsions than such as attack infants of ordinary physique: similar to the eclamptic fit of the puerperal state, and attacking the more robust, as a consequence probably of the cerebral hyperemia of an active form.

Some regard the eclamptic fit as synonymous with the epileptic fit. Although, however, the same essential factors may occur in each, justifying the

* West, "Diseases of Infancy and Childhood." Fifth edition, pp. 33, 34.