

Society Reports.

Toronto Medical Society.

THE regular meeting of the Toronto Medical Society was held on May 15th, 1895.

Antitoxine.—The postponed discussion on antitoxine was then proceeded with.

Dr. MACMAHON said that he had seen the remedy tried in a case since the last meeting, in which there were well-marked symptoms and the diagnosis confirmed by bacteriological examination. By the second day the membrane had disappeared, an event he would not expect to occur so soon under the old treatment.

Dr. MCPHEDRAN said that the general consensus of opinion on both continents was favorable to this method of treatment. It would, however, be disappointing in cases of mixed infection. He quoted statistics which, if credible, he said, were strongly commendatory of the treatment. He emphasized the necessity of its use in the early stages of the disease. Its action was that of a counter-stimulus to the tissues poisoned by the diphtheritic toxine rather than an antidotal one.

Dr. CLINGAN said that, contrary to the rule that the cases of mixed infection were the worst, the worst case he had seen was one in which pure cultures were obtained.

The secretary introduced Dr. ERNEST HALL, of Victoria, B.C., and moved that the courtesies of the society be extended to him. He said that in a visit to our isolation hospital he had learned that the antitoxine was looked upon with less favor than other treatment, particularly in the laryngeal form. He was struck with the large amount of calomel used for fumigation—gr. x. every quarter of an hour. In Berlin there were three cases in particular in which he had noted favorable results. The treatment there had met opposition from eminent men. He had had no personal experience with the serum. To give the best results it must be used early, and in large doses, and often repeated. As it was innocuous, enough should be used.

Flat Foot.—Dr. B. E. MACKENZIE read this paper. This term, he pointed out, was not a happy one for this condition. He described the anatomical construction of the two arches in each foot, showing how well provision had been made for its functions. The weight of the body was transmitted through a tripod. To maintain proper stability, the line of transmission must come within the triangle.