

rain would bring them in contact with the delicate surface of expanding buds, or the exposed internal tissues of fresh cracks or wounds. Observation has shown some connection between the attacks of blight and the direction of the wind, since trees to the windward of an orchard are most severely blighted; and again that a tall hedge has checked the progress of the disease. Puncture by insects is another method of inoculation.

As over cultivation, mulching, etc., seems through causing prolific growth to make trees peculiarly liable to disease, it is recommended to lessen the manuring, putting land in grass, etc.

It has been noticed that trees of stunted growth in poor, sandy soils do not suffer greatly from the disease.

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

Toronto Medical Society.

STATED MEETINGS, *February 2nd, 1888.*

Pathological Specimens.—Dr. H. W. Aikins exhibited a portion of the small intestines taken from the guard, Rutledge, who was stabbed on the morning of the 19th January, at the Central Prison, and gave the history of the case as follows:

The blade, about five inches in length, entered the abdomen at a point about two and a half inches to the left side of, and one and a quarter inches below the umbilicus, and passed backwards and a little inwards to the front of the vertebral column. During the day he complained of some local tenderness at the seat of the wound: the pulse gradually quickened, and towards evening there was some elevation of the temperature. Tympany became pretty well marked, with considerable nausea and vomiting.

The same evening Dr. W. T. Aikins, the prison surgeon, performed laparotomy with a view to securing any bleeding vessels, and sewing up any wounded intestine. The abdominal incision, about seven inches in length, extended from a point a little above and to the left of the umbilicus downwards in the middle line to a little above the pubes. A clot of blood, four inches in diameter and half an inch thick was found immediately beneath the abdominal wall. On removal of the clot, together with a moderate quantity of sero-sanguineous fluid, an examination of the small intestine from the commencement of the jejunum to the ileo-caecal valve was made without discovering any opening, nor was there any trace of the intestinal contents in the abdominal cavity. The mesentery, however, was pierced, and on tracing back an opening in the peritoneum was found not more than half an inch from the abdominal aorta. There was some oozing

of blood from this opening, which was immediately arrested by catgut ligature.

The intestines were now returned, a drainage tube inserted, and the abdominal wound closed.

The patient was kept well under the influence of morphine, yet the symptoms gradually became more grave until the following evening the pulse had reached 160, and the temperature rose to 103.7°. Early the following morning he appeared a little better, but during the forenoon he became much worse, and rapidly sinking he died the same afternoon.

Post mortem.—Evidences of intense diffuse peritonitis, with scattered collections of pus. A wound was found in the jejunum about two feet from the duodenum, circular in shape, and about a quarter of an inch in diameter. It was situated on the convex surface, about one-third of the way around from the attachment of the mesentery. Diametrically opposite this a piece of the mucous lining of the gut had been shaved off. Evidently the gut was empty and its walls collapsed at the time the wound was made. Most probably the edges were inverted, closing the wound, and when the examination was made, covered with lymph. The after distension of the intestine had very probably reopened the wound and allowed the escape of gas, etc., into the peritoneal cavity. No other opening was found, and remaining organs in this, and those in the other cavities of the body were healthy.

A discussion followed, during which cases were cited where, as in this one, persons have been known to walk a considerable distance after the reception of so severe an injury.

In answer to a question Dr. Aikins said the indications for an operation were: the increasing tym-