

of the foetus (and possibly of the mother) is rendered more pliable and yielding. After parturition the diet is to be changed to such articles as fully supply the wants of the osseous tissue of the infant.

**A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON HERNIA.** By Joseph H. Warren, M.D. Second and Revised Edition, Illustrated. Boston: James R. Osgood & Co. Octavo, pp. 428.

The author aims to give a short sketch of the various operations for the cure of hernia that are most worthy of mention, "in order that the busy practitioner could refer to them without wading through whole volumes." He has well accomplished his object. The illustrations are very practical and valuable. Very many authors are consulted. The *Lancet* says of the book: "Everything of value and importance connected with this subject has been embodied in it."

**REPORT ON THE SANITARY STATE OF THE CITY OF MONTREAL for 1880.** By A. B. Larocque, M.D., Health Officer.

We are indebted to this very active officer and co-worker for the above report, which consists of 45 pages of useful matter. According to the report, while the death-rate in Montreal of those under the age of 5 years is more than double, per 1,000 of the population, that of Toronto (18.6 and 8.5, respectively), the proportionate mortality amongst those above 5 years of age is much greater in Toronto than in Montreal; it being in Toronto 58.8 in each 100 of the total number of deaths, and in Montreal only 39.2 in each 100. The mortality amongst the French Canadians was, for 1880, 32.61 per 1,000 of population; amongst English-speaking Catholics it was 23.44 per 1,000; and amongst Protestants only 18.09 per 1,000. The healthfulness of the city has, it appears, improved much of late years.

#### A THOUGHTLESS WORD.

Oh many a shaft at random sent,  
Finds aim the archer little meant;  
And many a word at random spoken  
May soothe or wound a heart that's broken.

AT A RECENT MEETING of the Farmer's Club of Oxford, Ohio, the session was given to the reading of papers on ventilation, heating, water supply on farms, and similar topics.

#### ON A LOCK OF HAIR.

Oh! precious tress of glossy brown  
Wrapped tenderly in satin white;  
Which one time wreathed a fair, wise brow,  
And waved o'er eyes so blue and bright.

I touch it now with rev'rent lips,  
This lock that once to me she gave,  
For oh! of her so fair and pure,  
'Tis all I have this side the grave.

It once had life, once coursed her heart,  
—Still lives to me—a mystic life;  
Through it her spirit breathes my name,  
And "darling, I am still your wife."

#### Editor's Special Corner.

ONCE AGAIN I am enabled to send forth, after a long and much regretted suspension, the *JOURNAL* itself to answer "in propria personæ" the many notes and cards of enquiry received from time to time from various readers of it as to the cause of its non-appearance. When volume five was commenced it was thought that the *JOURNAL* was on such a basis that it would certainly be continued without any more interruptions, but though with the commencement of that volume, and at the reduced price, there was a large addition to its subscription list, and much encouragement was given that the enterprise would be much more remunerative, I was forced by circumstances to give my time and attention more to other work. Then, to do properly and in a successful manner the editorial work of such a journal, and also attend to all the peculiar duties involved in publishing the same, is beyond the natural adaptation and power of any one man. No editor, I am convinced, ever should publish his own work.

At first, now many months ago, it was intended to suspend the publication of the *JOURNAL* for only a short time, but many circumstances conspired as it were to pro-