

the desertion of her husband ; she had a nursing baby. It was in the middle of a raw winter, full of sudden changes, which made Philadelphia one of the worst cities in the country for consumptives. She was colored, which was an additional predisposing drawback. Despite these unfavorable circumstances, she continued to improve. The signs grew more negative, until, with the exception of the higher pitched note, she is perfectly well. It is probable that the other changes noticed at first came from the expectation that other familiar signs would follow the history taken. This history has not been exceptional in the dispensary clinic ; cases of "cured consumption" occasionally crop up. Undoubtedly, they arose from a few suspicious subjective symptoms, together with the high pitched note at the right apex.

In any case of this sort, it is well not to raise hopes too high. Many, undoubtedly the majority of cases, will prove to be tubercular, but here and there will be a case which can escape through proper treatment. So when our high-pitched, right apex patients lose flesh, or get a cough, while not relaxing vigilance or caution, let us not be too gloomy in our hopes at the outset.

THE BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD.

BY THOMAS W. POOLE, M.D., LINDSAY, ONT.

They may talk of the brain and point with pride,
To its arching dome and its basis wide ;
To its cortical cells and its ganglia deep,
And the treasures of thought its chambers keep,
To the wonders which eye and ear enthral,
But the spinal cord surpasses them all.

For the eye will close, and the brain will tire,
And our thought in its very source expire ;
While the lordly brow with lowered crest,
Seeks the downy pillow in needed rest ;
But the sentinel cord its vigil keeps,
For "the spinal system never sleeps."

The brain may suffice for our waking hours,
When the mind controls its wayward powers.
'Tis by it we laugh and by it we weep ;
It leaves us to die when it goes to sleep.
But the tireless cord with a ceaseless play
Is wakeful and active both night and day.

When the powers of life seem about to yield,
The brain is the first to resign the field ;
But the spinal cord holds out to the last,
And it often conquers when hope is past,
Survives the weak maunderings of the brain,
And ushers us back to the world again.

Then here is a toast I would have you hail,
The spinal cord from the bulb to the tail.
You surely must honor the famous spot
Where Flourens located "the vital knot."
The cord ! the cord ! with its mysteries deep,
Which the pyramids guard and the ganglia keep,
The first to grow and the last to fail,
The spinal cord from the bulb to the tail.

Lindsay, October, 1890.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

DEAR SIR,—At a meeting of the medical men of Muskoka, Parry Sound, and Nipissing, which took place in Huntsville, last August, to inaugurate a medical society, the following officers were elected : Dr. Howland, President, Drs. Bridgland, B. M. Walton and Thos. Walton, Vice-Presidents ; Dr. Hart, Reporter, and Dr. Topp, Sec.-Treas.

It was decided that the name of this association be the "Muskoka, Parry Sound, and Nipissing Medical Association."

Some very interesting papers were read by some of the medical men present, especially that by Dr. Bridgland, on "Pointers in Practice," obtained from a recent course of Post Graduate in New York. The society bids fair to be a success.

I am, yours, etc.,

R. A. TOPP, Sec.

Bracebridge, Oct. 3rd, 1890.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—It may not be inopportune for me at the present time to refer to the attitude which, by the public press, I have noticed the Local Board of Health, which is only a committee of the Council, has taken with regard to the appointment of my successor in the position of Medical Health Officer for Toronto.

From the inception of the Local Board under the Public Health Act of 1884, it has appeared that the work to be done by it was considered as but one of the functions of the Council, and hence during all my period of office I found that it was with the greatest difficulty that I could get any matter discussed except along the lines of its possible effect upon the interests of the individual. Alderman whose constituent any special offender against the laws might be ; nor indeed in many instances was it possible to obtain the Board's permission to take active steps for the removal of