

**Alleged discovery of a Petrified Body.**—The newspapers have lately contained a somewhat marvellous story of the discovery of a human body in a state of *petrification*, at Berthier. It appears that the place of interment, from which the body was raised, to permit of some necessary operations, was very damp, indeed traversed by a running stream of water; the effect of this, combined with exclusion from atmospheric air, was the conversion of all the soft solids into *Adipocere*. We have seen a fragment of it, and have no hesitation in expressing our opinion on the nature of the transformation.

Fossilized human remains are very rarely met with, and with the exception of those observed in caverns, have only as yet been discovered in two, or, we believe, at most three, localities in the world. The most remarkable of these is at Guadaloupe, in which the skeletons were found imbedded in sand, agglutinated and consolidated by lime, derived from shells and coral washed up from the sea, the shore of which appears to have been selected as a burial-place.

The few cases of fever treated during the month were of a mild description. In one or two there appeared a disposition to pneumonia, which was easily subdued, the whole of the cases terminating favourably in the course of a few days. A surgical case of considerable importance occurred; it was one of strangulated oblique inguinal hernia of the left side. A strong healthy man, about 36 years of age, was admitted into Dr. Macnider's wards, on the 25th of March, at half-past six o'clock, p.m., suffering from symptoms of strangulation of the above disease. He had been ruptured for the period of eight months, and had constantly employed a truss until within a few days previous to his admission. The present symptoms had existed about six hours. The tumour was the size of a hen's egg, hard and painful, abdomen tense, obstinate constipation, small contracted pulse, no vomiting; reduction was attempted by means of the taxis, bleeding, warm baths, tobacco enemas, æther to the tumour, &c. &c., without effect: and, consequently, the operation was decided upon, and performed by Dr. Macnider the following morning. The superficial epigastric artery was divided, but did not require a ligature; the intercolumnar fascia, and the spermatic fascia, with a portion of the aponeurosis of the external oblique muscle, were divided serially upon the director; the sac was then exposed and opened, and its contents were found to consist of a portion of the ileum, of a livid colour from venous congestion, and a serous fluid, which, after it had escaped, enabled the operator to replace the intestine with facility, without the necessity of dividing the stricture. The edges of the incision were approximated by means of three stitches, a compress of lint dipped in cold water was applied, and the patient put into bed, kept perfectly quiet, and on a spare diet. He had an evacuation the same afternoon, without having recourse to a laxative, and obtained a short but refreshing sleep. He has had a dose or two of castor oil, and an injection since the operation, rests well, no pain, appetite improving. The wound is now almost entirely united by the first intention, and in all probability he will be discharged from the hospital, completely recovered, in the course of a few days.

MONTHLY REPORT OF THE MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL.

DISEASES AND ACCIDENTS.

Anasarca, .....	1	Icterus, .....	2
Amenorrhœa, .....	3	Leucorrhœa, .....	1
Bronchitis, .....	2	Lepra, .....	1
Contusio, .....	2	Neuralgia, .....	2
Cynanche Tonsil, .....	2	Orchitis, .....	2
Delirium Tremens, .....	2	Ophthalmia, .....	4
Diarrhœa, .....	4	Psoriasis, .....	2
Dyspepsia, .....	4	Periostitis, .....	1
Erysipelas, .....	2	Pneumonia, .....	3
Enteritis, .....	1	Pleuritis, .....	2
Ectropion, .....	1	Rheumatismus, .....	5
Febris Com. Con. ....	6	Sciatica, .....	2
Fracture, .....	3	Syphilis, .....	6
Gonorrhœa, .....	4	Ulcus, .....	5
Hæmorrhoids, .....	1	Variola, .....	2
Hydro-thorax, .....	1	Vulnus, .....	4
Hernia, Strangulated, .....	1		
Iritis, .....	1	Total, .....	85

Dr. SEWELL, }  
Dr. MACNIDER, } Attending Medical Officers.

NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED IN THE MONTH OF MARCH, 1845.

Remained, .....	94	Discharged, Cured, .....	91
Admitted, .....	85	Died, .....	3
		Remaining, .....	85
Total treated, ..	179	Total, .....	179

IN-DOOR PATIENTS TREATED.

Belonging to Montreal, ..	79
Emigrants, .....	6
Total, .....	85
Males, .....	54
Females, .....	31
Total, .....	85

OUT-DOOR PATIENTS TREATED.

Belonging to Montreal, ..	197
Emigrants, .....	9
Total, .....	206
Males, .....	117
Females, .....	89
Total, .....	206

WM. E. SCOTT, M. D.  
House Surgeon.

April 7th, 1845.

To Correspondents.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of letters from the Rev. Dr. Wilkie, and Dr. Racey, Quebec; Dr. Hallowell, of Kingston; Dr. Spier, and Dr. Workman, of Toronto; Dr. Foster, M. P. P., of Shefford; and Dr.