

An abstract of the minutes of a meeting of the trustees of the Marine and Emigrant Hospital of Quebec, held on the 18th June, 1862.

Resolved, That the Secretary do write and inform Drs. Jackson and Landry that in the opinion of the Board the practice heretofore adopted, of giving the clinical lectures in the presence of the patients, is objectionable; and that the above named gentlemen be requested for the future, to make their clinical* remarks in the room known as the reading room.

A true copy,

(Signed,)

P. WELLS.

Sec. and Treas.

Certified.

Secretary's Office, Quebec, 4th August, 1862.

EDITORIAL SUMMARY.

THE NECROLOGY OF CHLOROFORM.

A meeting of the Western Medical Society of London, reported in the *Medical Times and Gazette*; Dr. Sansom remarked that he considered that, at the highest estimate, the number of deaths from chloroform to the number of inhalations bore the proportion of one to ten thousand. Various considerations, however, occurred to show that this should be very much more favourable. In the first place, it was very probable that several of the deaths were from shock or fright, and not from chloroform; and in furtherance of this view was the fact that half of the number of deaths occurred before the commencement of the operation for which chloroform was administered. Another avoidable circumstance increasing the death rate was supposed to be carelessness and laxity in the administration of the vapor. Circumstantial records of thirty-four cases of death which have occurred since the publication of Dr. Snow's work, were presented; the author combined them with those recorded in that volume, and offered an analysis of their most salient points. In cases of death the proportion of males and females is about two to one, and this seemed to the author strange, since the anæsthetic is so largely used in midwifery. The average age for death is thirty to forty. It certainly seems that the strong and healthy stand a worse chance than the debilitated; but of all states of the system, chronic or acute, alcoholism the most predisposes to death. Extensive disease of the lung occasionally disposes to death from asphyxia; disease of the heart probably does not influence the mortality. Dr. Sansom strongly deprecated the administration of chloroform sprinkled on handkerchiefs, etc., basing this not only on the observed fact that a highly-charged atmosphere (5 per cent. Snow, 8 per cent. Lallemand, Perrin, and Duroy) was fatal to animals, but on the circumstance that of all the cases which he had collected only two were mentioned as occurring wherein a proper inhaler had been used. Of fifty-one cases thirty-eight declared their danger by sudden stoppage of the pulse. Five deaths occurred in which there was manifested great muscular excitement, collapse immediately following; these were all strong men in their prime. Sudden vomiting and then death occurred twice; congestion of the face was the most marked sign in six, and cessation of breathing in eight cases. Dr. Sansom considered that death occurs both by asphyxia and by syncope—in animals by palsy of respiration, the heart being "ultimum moriens;" in man occasionally from this cause, but more frequently from palsy of the heart, the respiration outliving it. In animals a constant sign on post-mortem examination is distension of the right chambers of the heart; in man this is a frequent, but still