

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC NEWS

Conducted by MALCOLM MacKAY, B.A., M.D., Windsor Mills.

The Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society opened the season's work with a "smoker". A large number of the profession assembled to hear the outline of the work which has been planned for the session and to hear the words of the retiring president. A most successful year was reported, and the finances are known to be in a flourishing condition so that the prospects for the future are particularly bright.

Dr. Courmont, of Lyons, France, who has been attending the international convention at St. Louis passed a week in Montreal upon his way home. While in the city he gave a demonstration in the bacteriological laboratories of McGill and Laval upon his agglutination test for tubercle bacilli. The well known original work by Aryling, of Lyons, has been elaborated by Dr. Courmont, who has discovered a peptone medium upon which the tubercle bacilli will grow in such a way as to make a test similar to the Widal reaction in typhoid fever. Dr. Courmont believes that the test is of the greatest value in the early diagnosis of tuberculosis, the agglutination occurring before the bacilli can be detected in the sputum.

Dr. H. G. Nicholls is the only one in Montreal who has done any work in this direction and in several published papers his results have been seen to correspond closely to those obtained by the French observers. He has also pointed out that although of great use in the early cases yet when the physical signs are well established it is not present, and further that cows and sheep give the reaction when no tuberculosis can be made out post mortem. Dr. Courmont who was the guest of Dr. Nicholls was entertained at luncheon by the St. Louis Club and left Montreal for Boston and New York, where he intends to visit the laboratories of the various medical schools.

Mr. Dore, sanitary engineer, of Montreal, has completed a report in regard to a desired reform of overcrowding in congested dwellings. He urges that in future not more than seventy-five per cent of the land should be occupied by buildings, in other words that every house shall have twenty-five per cent. of spare land around it. He also states that houses and stables should have better ventilation and that the Board of Health have power to limit the number of persons dwelling in one building. The present by-law does not give the sanitary engineer power to remedy this state of affairs.