

Montreal, November 28th, 1879.

A regular meeting was held this evening. The President, Dr. R. P. Howard, in the chair. There were twenty members present.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Henry Howard read a paper on "Imbecility."

Remarks on this paper were made by Drs. R. P. Howard, Kennedy and Roddick.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Howard was moved by Dr. F. W. Campbell, seconded by Dr. Roddick, and carried.

Dr. Frank Shepherd exhibited a specimen from the dissecting-room of McGill College. The humerus had been amputated, and the cut ends of the brachial plexus were enlarged.

Dr. F. W. Campbell mentioned the fact that twelve days previously he had vaccinated a child in Donegana street, two hours after he vaccinated another child in St. Charles Borromée street; eight days after the child in Donegana street had an attack of convulsions, two hours after, the second child had a similar fit.

Dr. Trenholme stated that no doubt teething was the cause of the convulsions.

Dr. R. P. Howard asked if there was any history of rickets, as it was a well-known fact in rickety children, the slightest irritation would induce convulsions.

Dr. F. W. Campbell said there was no such history.

Dr. Kennedy mentioned the fact of seeing three children in the Hospital with small-pox, all three had been vaccinated just before the attack, and the vaccine vesicle had matured prior to the eruption of small-pox. Dr. R. P. Howard said some families take small-pox over and over again. He referred to one doctor who could never attend a case without contracting the disease. From such facts it is quite evident that there are some cases that even small-pox will not protect from other attacks let alone vaccination.

O. C. EDWARDS, M.D., *Secretary.*

HYPODERMIC USE OF CHLORAL IN CONVULSIONS.

Dr. Joseph L. Bauer, in the St. Louis *Clinical Record*, recommends the hypodermic injection of chloral hydrate in the convulsions of children. In a boy of seven years, whose case

seemed desperate, the patient being unconscious and unable to swallow, the injection of four grains was followed by almost immediate relief. A small abscess resulted from the puncture.

MURDER OF AN ITALIAN PHYSICIAN.

THE "kill or cure" system which is supposed to have existed in bygone ages has just received a cruel and literal illustration in Italy.

At the last assizes in Spoleto a trial for murder took place under the following circumstances:—A certain Signor Marcucci, of Spoleto, a gentleman of good property and position, called in a physician of the place, one Dr. Domenicis, to attend his only son, who was seriously ill. If, said Marcucci, the young man recovered, Dr. Domenicis should receive two thousand francs; if, on the other hand, the patient died, Dr. Domenicis should be killed! It cannot be for a moment seriously contended that such an alternative was accepted in good faith by the doctor. He would probably treat the case in the ordinary manner, and smile at the idea of such a threat being carried out. However, Signor Marcucci proved to be a man of his word, for the lad died, and Marcucci thereupon did kill Dr. Domenicis. He coolly murdered him, with apparently no attempt to conceal the act. The unfortunate physician left a widow and family behind him. But no compunction or pity availed to stay Marcucci's hand. And now what does the reader suppose was the sentence pronounced on this barbarous ruffian in an Italian court of justice? He was condemned to five years' imprisonment and the payment of a fine of twenty-five thousand francs, to be given as damages to the doctor's widow.

SUCCESSFUL TRANSFUSION WITH CHICKEN'S BLOOD—HEARTLESS INGRATITUDE.

Dr. L. L. Staton reports (*Maryland Med. Journal*, v. 391) a case in which he injected an ounce and a half of chicken's blood into the femoral artery of a man apparently dying from exhaustion after operation for stone. The result was that the patient went to sleep, and the foreign corpuscles filled his head with visions of chicken-broth. On waking, chicken-broth was lustily called for, and soon the "identical old hen" yielded to the stomach of her foster-son whatsoever of flesh she had gathered in her five years of earthly pilgrimage. Recovery.

DIED.

In Ottawa, on the 6th of September, Joseph Garvey, M.D. (McGill College, 1852), aged 49 years.