

pital, and a member of the Military Medical Board, No. 2. He was medical referee for Ontario of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, and medical examiner for several other life insurance companies.

A very large concourse of physicians and prominent citizens assembled at the funeral, to show their respect to the memory of the deceased.

J. J. C.

Correspondence.

The Editor cannot hold himself responsible for any views expressed in this Department.

DIPHTHERIA AND ITS TREATMENT.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY :

DEAR SIR,—Diphtheria is a self-limited disease of specific origin. If auto-infection can be prevented the efforts of nature will, unaided, effect a cure, but if the products of decomposition containing the specific poison of the disease (whether we believe this to be the Klebs-Loeffler bacillus or the ptomaines produced by it) are allowed to enter the system the disease increases in virulence, the powers of resistance are weakened and the victim dies. The Klebs-Loeffler bacillus may be, and often is, found when there is no constitutional disturbance, no diphtheritic deposits, or any other evidence of diphtheria; therefore, a perfectly healthy throat is immune to diphtheria; in addition to receiving the virulent Klebs-Loeffler bacillus in the respiratory passages they must be in a condition favorable to the development of the disease.

Many remedies and methods of treatment have been advocated and used since Bretonneau, in a work published in 1826, gave an account of his experience with diphtheria. The disease had been known and described before his work appeared, but from this time dates the copious modern literature upon the subject, as well as the name by which it is now known. Different opinions as to whether it was primarily a local or a general disease led to numerous theories as to methods of treatment for prevention and cure of diphtheria.

"Theoretically, a remedy to be successful in the treatment of diphtheria, should be one which would be constitutional as well as local in effect. It should be destructive to the specific cause as found in the diphtheritic deposits, prevent decomposition of the