

where strict asepsis is observed, is little, if any, more than in adults.

4th. The chances for a radical cure in children are greater than in adults, because of the more perfect reparative process at that age.

* 5th. The reconstruction of the canal is, *par excellence*, the operation, and, as shown by Bassini's statistics, has stood the test of time.

6th. To obtain the best results, a great deal depends upon the surgical technique and the suture material employed.

7th. Drainage should not be employed, if the surgeon is careful to observe the modern rules of cleanliness; for if the wound is infected during the operation, it must heal by granulation, and the drainage tube is always an additional source of danger.

8th. After primary and complete union of the whole wound, no truss is necessary.

36 West 59th Street.

Society Proceedings.

REPORT OF THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.*

The Canadian Medical, after a lapse of twenty years, returned to the old city of St. John, N.B., to hold its annual meeting. The proceedings were presided over by Dr. T. S. Harrison, of Selkirk, Ont.

After the routine business of opening and presenting delegates, Dr. Hattie, of Halifax, was called upon to read the first paper, in which he discussed the causation of Epilepsy. After discussing the nature of convulsions generally as occurring in different brain levels, he advanced the theory, that instead of so much importance being paid to the question of heredity, he inclined to the belief that it occurred *de novo*—that what is ordinarily signified by epilepsy was a group of symptoms indicative of systemic disease. This was the result of malnourishment consequent on insufficient removal of the toxic material, which as an irritant tended to instability of the cerebral cells.

He reported his results of an interesting series of experiments he has made upon the epileptics in Halifax Hospital for the Insane. This consisted in the record of the number of fits occurring using KBr with an intestinal antiseptic, the improvement over the use of KBr alone being marked.

After the discussion of this paper by Drs. Cameron of Toronto, and Wright of Ottawa, Dr. Muir of Truro, N.S., reported the history of a case of local tuberculosis of the arm which had been cured after the accidental inoculation of erysipelas. The patient was a female, aged 39, who had been suffering from the disease 14 years, the arm between the elbow and the wrist being very much swollen, brawny, riddled with sinuses which were discharging most offensive pus. Under chloroform these sinuses were scraped out, and antiseptic and deodorant dressing applied. There was little improvement in the symptoms until the wound became infected with the erysipelatosus germ. The result was that the arm became completely better. The paper was discussed by Dr. Daniels, Dr. Shepherd, Dr. Bulkley, Dr. Cameron, Sir Jas. Grant, Dr. Muir closing the discussion.

The following gentlemen were elected as the nominating committee:—Drs. Hingston, Shepherd, of Montreal; I. H. Cameron and O'Reilly of Toronto; Christie, MacLaren, Tobin, Dienstadt, Macleod and Johnson, of the Maritime Provinces.

Dr. Harrison delivered his presidential address, taking as his subject his observations and experience in medicine during the past fifty years. He compared the diseases in existence then with those we have now. Since the clearing up of the country in his province of Ontario the miasmatic diseases had become things of the past. He referred to the horrible concoction of domestic medicine, such as an infusion of sheep excrement for measles, and that of cat, which he said might not be considered a bad substitute for *assafoetida*, was the "sovereignest" thing on earth for fits. The old veteran referred to many practical points in his practice. He pointed out the danger a man was in of becoming egotistical or of getting into a rut when he was so far removed from other medical men. The corrective of this he considered to be the attendance of medical associations. A considerable portion of the address was taken up in discussion of the question of inter-provincial registration. Every practitioner in Canada, he considered, should have the right of practising in any part of the Dominion, without having to submit to an examination. He believed in a high standard both as to matriculation and graduation.

The President was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his address, and a committee was appointed to consider the matter of reciprocity discussed in his address.

The subject of appendicitis was discussed by Dr. Bell of Montreal. He reported 48 cases: 40 of them operated on with recovery; 5 not operated on; and only 3 deaths altogether. He classified his cases into the gangrenous, the perforative, the non-perforative,

* Specially reported for the CANADA MEDICAL RECORD.