It is only necessary to briefly refer to those irregular contractions which occur ante-mortem and are found after death and referred to as post-mortem intussusceptions. There may be as many as twelve in a single instance. These have little chemical significance. Some cases are also recorded in which Meckel's diverticulum has become inverted into the lumen of the intestine. The peristaltic action has forced this onward, forming in its advance the apex of an intussusception, pulling the ileum after it. The average length of this fætal vestage is two and a quarter inches, and is situated about thirty inches proximal to the ileo-cœcal valve.

## ARTERIOSCLEROSIS.\*

By JOHN FERGUSON, M.A., M.D., Toronto.

MR. CHAIRMAN and Gentlemen,—The subject upon which I wish to engage your attention for a few minutes is by no means a new one. The literature upon the subject of arteriosclerosis has become a very extensive one; and all I can hope to do on this occasion is to gather up the main features of what is known regarding the clinical and pathological state covered by the term, hoping that these remarks may lay the foundation for a fruitful discussion. Should such be the case, my object will have been attained. As tuberculosis claims many in the promise of youth, so high arterial tension has its victims among the best that are past midlife.

The term arteriosclerosis, introduced in 1834 by Lobstein, is vague, and other names have been suggested. Gull and Suctou called the condition arteriocapillary fibrosis, Virchow designated it endarteritis chronica deformans, Thoma speaks of it as angiosclerosis, Haller named it atheroma, and others have given it such names as sclerotic arteritis, chronic arteritis. In 1876 Friedlander called it endarteritis obliterans.

No one for a moment will doubt the importance of this morbid condition. Any disease which causes as many deaths in the prime of life as does arteriosclerosis may well claim a share of our thoughtful consideration. It is only by retaining a healthful condition of the arteries that we can hope to reach a green old age with the enjoyment of a fair share of mental and bodily vigor. Some may exclaim that old age is not desirable, and to such we would say you can attain your object by living a life over-indulgences in foods and drinks, coupled with manifold cares and anxieties. But to those who take the more rational view of desiring length of days with wisdom and health, it can be safely proclaimed that arteriosclerosis is among the most preventable of the diseuses to which

<sup>\*</sup> Read before the Toronto Academy of Medicine.