

Canada Lancet.

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In the city of Montreal, there are two lying-in hospitals, the larger, L'Hospice de la Maternité, is in charge of the Sisters of Mercy, and contains seventy-five beds; this includes those in the private wards, of which there are twenty-five. The attending physician is Dr. Trudel, Professor of Midwifery in L'École de Médecine; the students of which, having free access to the larger portion of this hospital, derive great benefit from its midwifery practice.

The other, the University Lying-in Hospital, contains eighteen beds, and accommodates a private patient or two, when the matron and assistant give up their rooms. It receives a small annual grant from government, and is otherwise supported by pay patients and by private contributions. Its affairs are ably conducted by a committee of married ladies from among our citizens, who take great interest in its management, and receive most of the applications for admission. It is under the medical control of the professors of McGill College, the lecturer in midwifery being its attendant physician: it is the only lying-in hospital accessible to the medical students of this University, and has generally from fifty to sixty cases of labour during the six winter months; some of these however, from want of timely notice, are delivered by the matron, and are therefore of no benefit to the students. The remainder, owing to faulty rules of government, are so unfairly divided that although three are allowed to be present at each, there are very many of the young physicians that graduate in McGill College, who do not either conduct or witness over two or three of the most ordinary cases of accouchement. The hospital is not visited by the professor in midwifery even with the students in attendance, and therefore no clinical instruction is ever given. And when interesting cases arise proper exertions are not made for taking advantage of them for the benefit of the class. This state of affairs loudly calls for increased efforts for the enlargement of the hospital, and for the appointment of an assistant teacher, if the present one is unable to fulfil all his duties.

We have received from the celebrated house of Morgan Brothers, of Bow Lane, London, a sample of their patent impermeable lint dressing. It is a coating of very fine cotton wool on a surface of oiled paper, and is intended as a substitute for lint and oiled silk in water dressing. It may likewise be employed for hot fomentations, or as a dry envelope in cases of acute rheumatism, or for burns. It is about the width of ordinary sticking plaster, and can be retailed in Canada at 50c. a yard.

There is probably no abuse that so loudly calls for censure, as the secret exaction made by the medical men in this city upon apothecaries, as a reward for patronage and a good name. This consists in the return of from a fourth to a third of the moneys received for prescriptions sent them. The physician hands his formula to his patient, and directs him to a certain chemist *in whom he has confidence*, (indeed some of them divide their favours between two or three shops); if a dollar is the price of the medicine compounded, we to the poor man's custom, if he does not faithfully return twenty-five or thirty cents of the money to the M.D. in a quiet civil way, as the bribe for his custom and influence. The extent of this disgraceful and unprofessional conduct in Montreal will hardly be credited abroad; there is scarcely half a dozen physicians of standing among us who are not guilty of it; and we are informed by one of the largest dispensing establishments here, that were all of them to insist upon the percentage, it could not be refused. This shameful state of affairs has been brought on by a few ringleaders having large practices, who, unfortunately for the profession, esteem money higher than they do its honour or dignity. If medical men are to continue to derive incomes by such means, we can assure them that at the least shall no longer be done in secret.

NEW BOOKS.—Among the announcements of new books for the coming season, we notice that Professors Syme and Millar have promised new editions of their respective Surgeries; Prof. Gamel is to come out with a work on *Materia Medica*, and a fresh edition of Royle and Headland's *Manual* may be expected; the latter, however, will have to wait for the new pharmacopœia. Dr. Lee announces Consultations in Midwifery; Dr. H. Davis, a new edition of *Difficult Parturition*; and F. Churchill another on *Diseases of Women*; and Spencer Wells promises a treatise on *Affections of the Ovaries*.

Interesting Cases.

DEATH FROM THE USE OF CHLOROFORM DURING LABOR. By O. D. Pomeroy, M.D., of New York.—I was called to attend Mrs. C., aged 40, in labor with her tenth child; nine children living. The pains becoming very severe I administered chloroform, avoiding a full anæsthetic effect; in the meantime labor terminated favorably. There was no cough or any unusual symptoms until the patient began to return to consciousness, a period of about half an hour from the commencement of the inhibition. She then had signs of irritation of the passages, as evinced by a few moist râles. Morphine was administered, with the hope that the state of things would disappear; this being about 11 p.m.

At ten next morning I was summoned in haste to her bedside, and found her breathing with great difficulty; mucous râles were heard throughout the lungs; pulse feeble, with other signs of sinking. Brandy was freely administered, and, after rallying a little, an emetic was given, with the view of relieving the accumulation in the bronchial tubes. It produced no effect however, beyond a slight emesis. She died in ten or fifteen minutes after. The chloroform was obtained of a reliable druggist, and was manufactured by one of our most respectable chemists.

There was no post-mortem, as the friends would