

statistical observation of the results of treatment, and lastly individual observation. Could our local society not be constituted a collective investigation committee? At present each member works in a practice circle of his own. Could the various circles be united, as to practical results, much valuable information would be brought together. What can possibly be more diverse than the treatment of disease? In many diseases, the very multiplicity of remedies recommended, by the most advanced authors, for the relief of the same, tend to throw doubt on therapeutic action. Cholera, diphtheria and typhoid fever. How varied the recommendations for this tripod of disease! The uncertainty of medicine is well known, and still how frequently we note its practical utility. The non-reliability of the materia medica is daily decreasing, and how? by the careful and patient study of philosophical and physiological facts. Thus the reactions in human chemistry are worked out on plain and simple principles, providing nature's laboratory is not overburdened by the endless variety of pseudo-medical nostrums, placed before the public in popular form. It is somewhat remarkable how few of the many therapeutic agents upon which we pin the greatest reliance, have been the result of direct experiment, or scientific enquiry. We recognise the power of quinine in intermittent fevers, and debilitated states of the system generally, and yet how defective is our knowledge as to the precise action of this material on the system. Again, we all note the power and influence of bromide and iodide of potassium, and yet their employment has not been the result of scientific induction, as the outcome of either physiological or pathological enquiry. In this line of thought much doubtless has been accomplished, but there is still much to learn. In Canada fortunately there is no legislative enactment against "vivi-section," one of the greatest possible blessings of humanity, as a means of carrying out scientific research. In the development of Canadian history and interests, we hope to see more time and means devoted to original investigation. Discoveries, through scientific enquiry, in the direction of the human system, would be exceedingly gratifying records, in the march of progress in our new country. We have an intellectual activity of no low order, and with our naive growth, schooled at home and abroad, in the most progressive centres of Great Britain and Europe,

we naturally look for, and anticipate competitive scientific enquiry, into the complex operations of a system which has thus far taxed the most acute observation in solving the problems of life. "Not what I have, but what I can do, is my kingdoms," says Thomas Carlyle. Fortune may not be our lot; but an honest living we shall have, and with the trust placed in our hands, let us so discharge our duties as to gain the esteem and respect of our fellow-men.

A RECORD OF CASES TREATED IN THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, FROM NOV. 1883 TO MAY, 1884.*

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FIBROID TUMORS OF THE UTERUS.

A. N. æt. 36, unmarried, was admitted Nov. 5, 1883, complaining of a swelling in her abdomen. Patient has always enjoyed good health till three years ago, when she felt a severe pain in her back which lasted only three days. Twelve months before admission the same kind of pain returned and since then it has been constant. The pain induced her to go to the doctor who told her there was something wrong with her inside, and advised her to go to the hospital.

Condition on admission—Abdomen distended to about the size of a seven or eight months' pregnancy, but somewhat irregularly, the long end of the oval being oblique upwards from left to right, from the middle of Poupart's ligament on the left side to the top of the last rib on the right side. Tumour is perfectly moveable. Percussion is uniformly dull anteriorly, resonant on both sides, especially on the left. On the right the tumour feels solid, on the left obscure fluctuation is present. In front a soft flat cyst containing fluid can be distinctly felt and it is freely moveable over surface of solid mass behind. On auscultation an impulse is communicated to the ear from all points of the surface of the tumour. On the lower aspect anteriorly a distinct bruit is audible synchronous with heart's first sound. *Per vaginam*—Hymen persistent, pelvis empty, and the vaginal portion of the cervix is represented by a button-like nodule of firm tissue. From this nodule the thinned elongated cervix can be felt extending up-

* Read before the Obstetrical Society, Edinburgh, June, 1884.