

Society Proceedings.

MONTREAL MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY

The eleventh regular meeting of the Society was held March 2nd, 1906, Dr. F. R. England, President, in the Chair.

SPLENECTOMY.

A. E. GARROW, M.D., presented before the Society a living case of wandering spleen, and gave the following history. The patient, a Greek, aged 32, female, had malaria fifteen years ago, and five years ago commenced to complain of pain in the left hypochondrium, since which time she has been practically more or less invalided. The patient was referred to the gynæcological department of the Royal Victoria Hospital with a tumour which was supposed to be pelvic. Dr. Chipman, however, recognized the spleen, and by posturing, the organ could be made to glide into various parts of the abdomen. Operation was undertaken some weeks ago. A few adhesions were found to connect the organ with the small intestines and also with the parietal peritoneum. There was a large and firm adhesion, chiefly from the omentum, covering the inner surface as a sort of sheath over the true pedicle which was very much enlarged, containing many enormously distended vessels. The organ, after being delivered through the incision, was readily removed by first tying off the omentum and afterwards ligating the pedicle. Since the operation convalescence has been uneventful, with the exception of two or three slight attacks of pain felt in the left hypochondrium and also referred to the epigastrium, which were not associated with any rise in temperature except in one instance. Rest in bed was sufficient to relieve this symptom. The most striking feature since operation is the marked change in colour; she was dark and swarthy, but since the operation the colour has improved steadily. She is now practically white, with the exception of one or two spots which still remain on the forehead. With regard to the blood count, before entering the ward it was as follows, red cells, 2,500,000, hæmoglobin 35 per cent., white cells 4,200. Just before operation the count was, red cells 3,150,000, hæmoglobin 40 per cent., white cells 4,000. After the operation, red cells were 3,000,000, hæmoglobin was 40 per cent., white cells 20,000. A marked leucocytosis followed the operation. At present the blood count shows 4,000,000 red cells, hæmoglobin 80 per cent., white cells 12,000. A differential count made to-day shows 60 per cent. polymorphonuclear cells, 35 per cent. lymphocytes, five per cent. large mononuclears; no eosinophiles, and no poikilocytosis.