

## Original Communications.

### ANNUAL ADDRESS BEFORE THE MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

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Read before the Society, 16th Oct., 1874.

GENTLEMEN,—Another year has glided down the stream of time, adding its record of usefulness, or otherwise, to those which preceded it in the short life history of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal.

Were the success of a society to be measured by the attendance of its members, I might feel disposed (while cavilling at their lukewarmness) to hazard the prophecy that, instead of strengthening with its years, the society presents, already, some of the signs of a decline, which hung, seemingly, from the beginning. Yet the year just ended has been as prolific in work—though the attendance, notwithstanding the increased membership, has not been greater—as any which preceded it; while numerous have been the kindly offices rendered, though not registered in the well-kept archives of our very efficient secretary. Among the recorded are the following, sufficient, I feel assured, to satisfy the desires of moderate ambition.

As the chief part of the business of the Society is reading and discussing papers at the regular meetings, I shall allude to it first. The papers read during the past year have been numerous and valuable. Most, if not all of them, have been already published in the medical journals of the country; and some have elicited flattering comments from the medical press *outré pays*.

To take them in order:

*Dr. Trenholme* contributed a paper on "Ovariectomy,"—an operation which, in Canada, bids fair to equal, in a low ratio of mortality, the success obtained by our transatlantic brethren.

*Dr. Hingston* one on "Stone in the Bladder."

*Dr. Kennedy* read a paper on Embolism of the left middle Cerebral Artery, with mitral disease, unique in many respects—there being no aphasia—but a heart murmur, distinct at first, finally disappearing, and post mortem appearances really indicating disease.

*Dr. Bell* added to the catalogue of epilepsy a case occurring in the puerperal state, in a person twenty-seven years of age, who had had the first attack of epilepsy when fourteen years of age; but who, for five years previous to the occurrence of pregnancy, had no attack; the puerperal state, however, induc-

ing the return of the disease, which persisted with greater or less severity till time of, and after delivery.

*Dr. Reddy* contributed a paper on Acute Desquamative Nephritis occurring in gestation, in which labor was induced at about the sixth month, with recovery of the mother.

*Dr. Simpson* read one on dry gangrene of the leg, during acute mania, necessitating amputation of the leg near the knee; the case favoring the belief that the mania and the dry gangrene resulted from the same pathological states—embolism of cerebral artery or arteries, and of the vessels of the leg.

*Dr. Brown* submitted to the Society, along with the morbid specimen, a case of cystic degeneration of the kidney, with fungoid growth in the bladder, in which death took place by convulsions.

*Drs. F. W. Campbell* and *Kennedy* gave details of several cases of membranous croup, in some of which tracheotomy had been performed, without, however, saving life.

*Dr. Ross*, a case of syphilitic disease of the larynx where the patient was moribund, but where recovery took place after laryngotomy.

*Dr. Gardner* read a paper on subinvolution of the uterus, and its local treatment by nitric acid.

And, lastly, *Dr. Trenholme*, who gave the details of that bold and successful operation, extirpation of the whole uterus with its appendages.

Besides these papers—many of them of considerable value—particulars of cases were submitted to the Society from time to time, with specimens more or less interesting. Among the former I shall mention *Dr. Kennedy's* case of melanotic disease of the liver in a subject who had previously suffered from melanotic disease of the eyeball necessitating its removal, and in which a post mortem afforded an opportunity of verifying the diagnosis—the identity in character of the disease destroying the eye with that causing death elsewhere.

*Dr. Bell's* preparation of the imperfect rectum of an infant—its patency well preserved—was one of the most interesting yet exhibited to the Society. Although not dignified with a paper on the subject, it presented, in its cleanly dissected state, a pathology and an indication to treatment readily understood. Pathological specimens, such as that alluded to, impress themselves with force upon the mind, and are sometimes of really more value than the details of more successful cases; besides giving evidence of candor which we should ever be ready to appreciate.

During the year now ended, the long discussed