

Society Reports.

The Ontario Medical Association.

FOR the first time in some years the Ontario Medical Association was held outside of Toronto. Dr. F. Le M. Grasett, of Toronto, presided over the Windsor meeting in an able manner.

The Treatment of Puerperal Sepsis.—Dr. MACHELL, of Toronto, read a paper on this subject. He thought that the subject was a most opportune one, as the mortality was still very large in general practice. After referring to the records of deaths per population in Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, London, and York County, and stating that mild sepsis was often passed over under a different name, the doctor gave his attention to the prophylaxis of the disease. He took as his motto, "No bacteria—no infection, no putrefaction, no suppuration."

The patient's surroundings should be clean to a nicety, and the room selected for accouchement should be large, cheerful and well ventilated. The doctor dwelt at length on the absolute necessity of the physician's hands and nails being thoroughly aseptic, and deplored the habit of careless washing of the hands, which should be well washed in hot water and soap first, and then held for some minutes in the antiseptic solution. He said that as few vaginal examinations should be made as possible.

The essayist spoke with force in the matter of insisting on cleanliness in all particulars, which, he said, was antagonistic to the chance of sepsis. As to diagnosis, he said that a post-partum rise of temperature should always be carefully investigated. It might be due to (1) constipation, (2) mammary disturbances (3) inter-current non-obstetric disease or (4) sepsis.

The doctor then stated that if the attending physician could find no cause to suspect the presence of any of the first three of these, he may rest assured that he has a case of mild sepsis on his hands, and must act accordingly.

The doctor then gave a careful study of the means by which the seat of the sepsis should be investigated. He continued by giving the mode of treatment which should be followed where individual parts were alone affected, and where there was a general sepsis. He spoke at length of the various aseptic douches, curettes, etc., which should be used, and the method thereof. He spoke also of the various degrees of severity in which the disease is to be found, and of the heavy responsibility which the practitioner is sure to encounter.