

the error was detected at or immediately after the close of the operation. In one a sponge, and in one a pair of forceps, were discovered after the patient's death. In one (Dr. Wilson's), the presence of the sponge in the abdominal cavity was not suspected till it worked its way to the surface months after the operation, and was successfully removed from an abscess-cavity near the umbilicus by Dr. G. H. Hocking. Of the 15 European cases 10 have never been published, and are mentioned by Dr. Wilson on the authority of Mr. Lawson Tait, who added an eleventh in his own practice, where the error arose through the sponge having been torn in halves. The same accident occurred in one operation performed by Dr. Kocher, of Berne, and is published in a paper on Ovariectomy in Switzerland, which appeared in the *British Medical Journal* of January 28th, 1882. In two cases in Sir Spencer Wells' operative experience, a foreign body was left in the peritoneal cavity—a sponge in the first, and a pair of forceps in the second instance; in both the patient recovered after remedy of the oversight. In the fourteenth of the European cases a sponge was found at the necropsy of a patient of Dr. Carl Braun; and in the fifteenth, a case of Dr. Gustav Braun, a bull-dog forceps was found under similar circumstances.

Meetings of Medical Societies.

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

At the last meeting of this society, under the title of "A few notes on Gynecology," Dr. Laphorne Smith related what he had observed during a few weeks spent at the New York hospitals and dispensaries for women this spring. He began by referring to the great frequency with which the operations for lacerated cervix and lacerated perineum were performed. The necessity for these operations having been called in question by some English writers, he stated that the American operators were fully justified in their practice by the great relief to the patient from reflex symptoms in distant organs, brought about by the re-

moval of cicatricial tissue from the angle of the wound and the union by first intention of the sides of even a slight laceration.

He noticed that the operation was often performed rather as a speedy method of getting rid of the hypertrophied tissue of the subinvolutus uterus and of the cervical glands which had undergone cystic disease, than merely for the sake of uniting the laceration; and he instanced one case where Dr. Hunter had removed the uterine tissue nearly as far as the internal os, leaving only a small shell of the cervix to serve for the flaps.

The operation for lacerated perineum was also performed for the purpose not only of affording support to a prolapsed uterus and for the cure of rectocele, but also for the purpose of rendering coitus more satisfactory to the husband, as well as to favor conception by increasing the depth of the seminal lake at the upper and back part of the vagina.

In these operations the reader remarked how completely the tenaculum and scissors had replaced the forceps and knife.

In an operation for removal of the uterus for fibroid, by Dr. Hunter, he noted the extraordinary precautions taken to avoid the entrance of a single drop of blood into the peritoneal cavity, a result obtained by wrapping the edges of the abdominal wound in warm carbolized towels which were changed as soiled. All cases of abdominal section at the Women's Hospital were performed in detached cottages.

He was glad to state that notwithstanding the great experience and skill of the surgeons, and the almost unlimited means at their disposal, the results attained by our Montreal surgeons would compare favorably with any attained there.

Coming to minor details, he showed Wylie's dilator, and pointed out its advantages over all kinds of tents and metal bougies; the principal being that the dilator was exceedingly easy of introduction and all the force used is expended in dilating, while with bougies a great deal of power is lost in pushing the womb, in order to force the instrument in. The mechanical dilator is also more speedy, and free from dangers of septic absorption.

The reader then referred to the frequency