

result, by the way, which does not accord with the experience of other Hospitals where the stimulating plan is pursued, and which does not affect in the slightest my opinion of this plan of treatment, inasmuch as it gives 8 deaths out of 49 cases, or 16.3 per cent. which leaves a margin of 6 per cent, in favor of the non-stimulating plan as pursued in the Glasgow Hospitals. I am glad to be informed that owing to the last portion of my article having been unavoidably held over, it is possible to correct the original text. This you will oblige me by having done in accordance with the data furnished.

By doing this, you will greatly oblige,

Yours, &c.,

W. E. BESSEY, M.D.

P.S.—Dr. Howard, in a recent letter to the *Witness*, gives the number of admissions for Typhoid Fever during the 10 years immediately preceding 1871-72 as 385, and the number of deaths as 36, giving a mortality rate of 9.35 per cent. This result is so exceptionally favorable for the Alcoholic plan of treatment in Typhoid Fever that I venture to affirm that if the two systems of treatment be subjected to a crucial test in the same Hospital, on patients of the same class, and under the same conditions, alcoholics being administered to one lot, and *ammonia* as a stimulant to others, with milk diet, it will be found that the alcoholics have sadly suffered by the comparison.

Communication.

To the Editor of the CANADA MEDICAL RECORD:

SIR,—Although a young practitioner I have been a member of the Medico-Chirurgical Society for some time. Medical Societies are the source of a great deal of benefit both to old and young members of our profession, but I am afraid such is not the case with us. Some members are too fond of epitomising articles from standard authors and delivering their remarks as though they were addressing a body of illiterate men, much in the same way as a professor addresses freshmen.

Several times have I gone home and turned up Reynolds' system of Medicine, Holmes' Surgery, &c., and discovered the fountain-head of a long address, delivered as if it had been based on past experience. Such members ought to know that our Society is not composed of ignorant men, and that the meetings are not attended merely with the view of listening to recitals of eminent men's opinions by the lesser lights of Montreal.

The young Medical men of this city are essenti-

ally a reading class, and are quite conversant with most of the standard authors; and the meetings are supposed to be attended with the view of listening to each other's experience and profiting thereby.

I hope, Sir, such members may see the folly of their ways, and in future not bore men with matter with which they are already conversant.

Another thing also that strikes me as being rather odd, is the publication of operations in the daily papers. I remember once a Medical student, partially connected with the Press, was severely reprimanded for having inserted two operations of an eminent practitioner, but unconnected with any School. One was an excision of a portion of the clavicle, and the other was a shoulder amputation.

All is now changed, and the rule is to puff as much as possible. Lately there were puffs in two separate columns of a morning paper.

It is also very strange the two Medical Journals cannot report things alike. In reading the report of the last meeting in the "Canada Medical and Surgical Journal," one would almost believe the tumour had been excised, instead of only half; and the remarks of one or two appear twisted and turned into laudation of a dangerous operation, for the performance of which there was hardly an excuse.

The fact is, Sir, there is not sufficient independence among individual members of our Society, and too much of the mutual admiration element; and juveniles like myself are expected to look on admiringly.

I remain, Dear Sir,

DIOGENES, JUN.

Progress of Medical Science.

THE SYNTHESIS OF ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

BY DR. BALTHAZAR W. FOSTER, PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE IN QUEEN'S COLLEGE, AND PHYSICIAN TO THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM.

[The facts recorded in the following paper, when added to the arguments which have been adduced by Prout, Richardson, and other writers, will strengthen considerably the evidence which points to lactic acid as the poison of acute rheumatism.]

In the *British Medical Journal* of February 25th, 1871, I read with much interest an account of Dr. Cantani's observations on the lactic acid treatment of diabetes. At that time, I was engaged in completing an inquiry into the effects of different drugs on the sugar-excretion in diabetes. I determined to add one more drug to my list, and to complete my research by observing the effects of lactic acid.

A man (Wright) who had just come into the