

selves to special subjects to give the results of their special knowledge to their brother practitioners. He had some years ago had his attention drawn to the fact that the principle of rest in cases of inflammation applied to the throat as well as to any other part of the body. Under the influence of rest inflammatory conditions subsided, and, perhaps, gave way to renewed action. The larynx was moved in three functions, namely, in the production of voice, in breathing, and in swallowing. The first was a voluntary action, and it was possible, therefore, to secure complete rest. Breathing, though absolutely necessary for life, might be made easier, and by tracheotomy the larynx might be relieved from active participation in respiration. Was it advisable to practise tracheotomy for this purpose? He did not share in the opinion that it was a simple or harmless operation, but he considered it was valuable in appropriate cases. With regard to the third function, swallowing, tracheotomy did not afford complete rest, but other means might be taken to give partial rest.

#### CERVICAL RIBS.

Dr. Shepherd, of Montreal, read a paper on three specimens of this anatomical peculiarity. Two of them were exhibited to the Section. He also demonstrated his method of strapping "caked" breast.

#### ECZEMA OF THE NIPPLE AND CANCER OF THE BREAST.

Dr. Grant, of Ottawa, read the notes of a case of this kind, and referred to Sir James Paget's observations, which had proved a connection between this affection and the development of breast cancer.

### SECOND DAY.—SEPTEMBER 7TH.

GENERAL SESSIONS.—After routine business, the

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

were proceeded with.

Dr. Francis J. Shepherd, of Montreal, presented the report on Surgery. (Published in this issue.)

The report on Therapeutics was read by Dr. Tye, of Chatham, Ontario. It dealt largely

with the use of electricity in various affections, and the influence of different kinds of currents. In referring to the large number of new pharmaceutical preparations which had been introduced, he thought the majority of them were more beneficial to the manufacturer than to the patient.

Dr. Canniff presented an elaborate report of the committee appointed at the Halifax meeting to seek from the government improved legislation in respect to sanitation and vital statistics. It was arranged that the committee should meet and draw up resolutions to be communicated to the Premier.

The meeting then resolved itself into Sections.

### MEDICAL SECTION.

#### A PECULIAR FORM OF FEVER.

Dr. Harrison, of Selkirk, Ont., read a paper descriptive of four unusual cases which presented the following features: The disease came on insidiously, as a remittent fever, with slight tenderness of the bowels, hemorrhage from the nose, pain in the head and back of the neck; changed to intermittent of the quotidian or tertian type; was entirely beyond the influence of quinia, was complicated with strabismus, arching of the neck, painful contraction of the muscles in various parts so as to cause screaming or sudden piercing shrieks; ran a course of from four to fourteen weeks, two of the patients dying, one in the thirteenth the other in the tenth week. No autopsy.

In the discussion which followed, most of the speakers regarded it as a form of cerebro-spinal fever. Drs. Holmes and Tye, of Chatham, referred to similar cases.

#### DIPHTHERIA.

Dr. Mullin, of Hamilton, Ont., reported two cases of diphtheria—one of diphtheritic croup, in which tracheotomy was followed by a successful result; in the other the membrane appeared on the left tonsil and uvula, and the case ended fatally through septicæmia. He referred to considerations showing that it was a constitutional disease, and that local applications could not remove it.