

lectures served a useful purpose in supplementing the strictly practical instruction which the pupil received from the master. The school system gradually replaced the apprentice system, and made the student, we won't say scientific, but it made him a man of books and opinions, and cultivated his memory to the neglect of his powers of observation. A double course of lectures on all the more important branches of study was thought necessary, and the number of lectures in each course was fixed at one hundred. Opinions have changed, and improved methods are beginning to prevail. It was found that lectures failed to replace practical instruction. The professor has now to give way to the teacher. Students were over-lectured and under-taught. Your Faculty would wish to replace a large proportion of the didactic lectures by practical laboratory work and instructive demonstrations, but the boards will not let them. They exact the pound of flesh; they must have the one hundred lectures twice told. For my part, I see no hope of a change until such time as the affairs of our profession are controlled by more enlightened men. . . . . The excessive time devoted to didactic lectures is the worst in our Canadian system of medical education. There is no country in the world where so many lectures have to be attended. When your brain is weary with much listening, your fingers cramped with note taking, your ischial tuberosities worn away from much sitting, do not entertain hard feelings against the Faculty, but remember the provincial boards." We may say that the board specially referred to by Dr. MacDonnell is that of the Ontario Medical Council.

#### NOTES.

NEW YORK POST-GRADUATE HOSPITAL.—An abstract of the fifth annual report shows that this hospital is in a flourishing condition. During the last eighteen months 486 house patients have been treated. In the dispensary connected with it 8,000 new patients have been treated, 32,000 visits having been made. All the facilities connected with this hospital are at the disposal of those practitioners who take the regular course in the Post-Graduate School.

A bacillus peculiar to warts has been discovered by Dr. Kühnemann.

## Meeting of Medical Societies.

### THE PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF TORONTO.

[Specially reported for THE CANADIAN PRACTITIONER.]

#### SARCOMA OF THE BRAIN.

Dr. H. W. Aikins presented a specimen of sarcoma of the brain.

J. L., a healthy boy of 9, on August 13th, 1888, struck his head on a toboggan slide. He was unconscious for a moment, then dizzy. He was seen two weeks after the accident, and had during that time been suffering with headache and left internal strabismus.

Ophthalmoscopic examination by Dr. Reeve showed double optic neuritis. During the next two months incoordination of muscles came on and increased so that when brought to my office he kept falling all over the sidewalk.

On 29th of December he was unable to walk the full length of the room, falling to one or other side, more usually backwards. No pyrexia. Patellar reflex exaggerated.

Early in January, 1889, incontinence of urine came on, although the sphincter ani remained intact. Fixed mydriasis on both sides. Spasmodic hyper-extension of extensor muscles from the hip down. Fearful screeching during sleep, but no pain complained of when he was awakened. He had now become quite helpless.

In February he had become apathetic, wandering, sleeping or dozing. Pupils wildly dilated, no reaction to light. Morning vomiting.

The head now began to increase in size. Slight protusion of the left eyeball, with some swelling of left upper eyelid. Early morning muscular spasms, in which limbs are flexed, followed by wild screaming. Incessant rolling of the head from side to side while dozing. Tâche cérébrale well marked.

Later on both eyeballs protruded somewhat, and there was a generally diffused swelling of the forehead and eyelids. There was a slightly developed Cheyne-Stokes respiration. His power to memorise was now completely gone. In his wanderings he used expressions which he had not employed for over 4 years. As he dozed there would appear here and there small irregular patches of skin, now hyperæmic, now anæmic.