

THE Canadian Medical Review.

EDITORIAL STAFF:

W. H. B. AIKINS, M.D.,

Physician to Toronto General Hospital.

A. B. ATHERTON, M.D.,

Surgeon to General Hospital, Fredericton, N.B.

J. H. BURNS, M.D.,

Surgeon to St. John's Hospital for Women

J. FERGUSON, M.D.,

Physician to Western Dispensary.

ALBERT A. MACDONALD, M.D.,

Gynecologist to Toronto General Hospital.

G. STERLING RYERSON, M.D.,

Oculist and Aurist to Toronto General Hospital.

ALLEN BAINES, M.D.,

Physician to Hospital for Sick Children.

VOL. III.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1896.

No. 1.

Original Communications.

Diagnosis and Treatment of Chronic Suppuration of the Antrum.*

BY PRICE BROWN, M.D., TORONTO.

THE diagnosis of antral disease is frequently somewhat obscure, consequently a positive conclusion can rarely be arrived at upon the first examination. The presence in one nasal cavity of pus of a creamy color and possessing an unpleasant aromatic odor, while the other nasal cavity is free, is always sufficient to induce the impression that suppurative disease exists in one or other of the accessory sinuses.

The question is whether the disease is frontal, ethmoidal, antral or sphenoidal, and we must not forget that the muco-purulent discharge produced by the presence of polypi, associated with atrophic disease, sometimes simulates the pus of antral suppuration. Foreign bodies and rhinoliths may also give rise to a similar character of discharge.

Cleansing the nostril by mild sprays, and following this by the application of cocaine to the mucous membrane, will materially aid in diagnosis. Its astringent action on the blood-vessels will make the presence or absence of deep polypi certain; and the same truth will

*Read before the Toronto Medical Society, December 19th, 1895.