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## Original Communications.

### AN EPIDEMIC OF MEASLES.\*

By DR. C. J. EDGAR OF SHERBROOKE.  
Mr. President and Gentlemen,

During the months of June, July and August of this year—the centenary by the way of the differentiation of measles from scarlet fever—there occurred in my practice an epidemic of measles numbering 423 cases. It occurred in a mining town among a class of people moderately cleanly and fairly well fed and housed. It began with measles of the ordinary type, rapidly becoming more severe, until during the height of the epidemic it was extremely severe, and every case either of the malignant or the hæmorrhagic type. When the acme was past, the disease gradually became of less severity until the last cases were again of the usual mild variety.

Of the 423 cases which constituted this particular epidemic, only 123 were of the regular type. Of these, seventy-six (76) occurred at the beginning of the epidemic,

12 were scattered through it, and the remaining 32 at the end of it.

103 cases were of the malignant type, *i. e.*, were of extreme severity, were all complicated by some other disease, and furnished all the fatal cases which occurred, viz., seven.

The remaining 200 cases were of the hæmorrhagic form, and while more severe than the mild cases, were yet much less violent than the 103 cases which I have classed as malignant, and were none of them fatal.

The contagiousness of the disease was extreme and universal—almost every person in the locality who had not had it, independent of age or sex, contracting it. Many claimed to have had the disease before, and six of them were certainly right to my own personal knowledge. Although in such an epidemic it is extremely difficult to determine the period of exposure to infection, it was still possible to verify the statement that the period of incubation of measles is very variable and uncertain.

The only symptoms which were present in absolutely all the cases of whatever type

\* Read before the Canada Medical Association, at Ottawa, 20th Sept., 1892.