## CANADA

## MEDICAL & SURGICAL JOURNAL

## SEPTEMBER, 1881.

Original Communications.

## ON WATER ANALYSIS.

Br J. M. MACDONALD, M.D., L.R.C.S.E. Medical Officer, Steel Company of Canada, Londonderry, N.S.

(Read before the Canada Medical Association, at Halifax, 3rd August, 1881.)

I am frequently asked, by both medical men and laymen, to give some ready method by which the fitness or unfitness of water for domestic purposes can be ascertained. For answering the question several difficulties present themselves. The cost of apparatus for a complete examination of water is a serious matter; few persons have the time or inclination to carry out detailed chemical analysis, and, lastly, a conclusion as to the purity or impurity of water must be based upon a collection of all the evidence that can be obtained, rather than from the results of one or two tests. The vital importance of the subject and the lively interest which is being awakened in regard to it, have led me to attempt the description of water analysis, which will be sufficient for ordinary purposes, and at the same time fall within the means and the opportunities of every medical practitioner. Two years ago I imported from Savory and Moore of London, one of the Parks' cabinets for water analysis. It cost me, inclusive of duty about \$150.00, and nearly one half of the contents were destroyed by breakage. As few would care to go to that expense, I have endeavoured to meet the difficulty by preparing a small, cheap, and at the same time efficient case of chemicals and apparatus, which should not cost