

T H E

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## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ART. XXII.—*Case of Fatal Jaundice, with remarks.* By A. F. HOLMES, M.D., Professor of Medicine, McGill College.

Jaundice in its ordinary acute form, is generally recognized as a disease devoid of danger, running a course which terminates after an uncertain time in the gradual disappearance of the characteristic symptoms, and the return of health. Yet, it has been long known, that exceptions to this general rule are occasionally met with\*, and recent observations seem to show that they are of more frequent occurrence, than they have hitherto been thought to be. Cases of this kind have been noticed by Hippocrates, who says, "stupor with delirium in jaundice is a fatal symptom;" by Morgagni, and more recently by Kiernan, Bright, Alison, &c. Dr. Budd, in his recent work on the liver, has collected a number of such described by former authors, and has added to them several which he has had the opportunity of seeing. He characterizes them as "this terrible disease," and the cases which he enumerates will go far to change the category in which jaundice is to be classed, and produce anxiety relative to cases, which we might otherwise have regarded as of little importance.†

In corroboration of the fact that cases of fatal jaundice are by no means infrequent, I refer to one, the account of which is given by Dr. Wright, in the November No. of this Journal, and to the one which I now submit.

### CASE.

November 8, 1855 (Thursday.)—I was requested to visit Mrs. C—,

\* In the very meagre article on jaundice, in "the Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine," by Dr. Burder, scarcely an allusion is made to its being fatal.

† That accurate author, Abercrombie, was, however, fully aware of the danger of this disease, for, he says, "jaundice, however, even when arising from causes apparently transient, is never to be look upon as free from danger."—On Dis. of Stom. Ed. 1828. P. 373.