

CANADA
MEDICAL & SURGICAL JOURNAL

MARCH, 1878.

Original Communications.

CASE OF HYPERTROPHY,

DILATATION AND FATTY DEGENERATION OF THE HEART,
CONSEQUENT UPON PROLONGED MUSCULAR EXERTION.

BY WILLIAM OSLER, M.D.,

Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, McGill University, Montreal.

(Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal.)

Do fatal and uncomplicated cases of hypertrophy and dilatation of the heart ever occur as consequences of severe and prolonged muscular exertion?

The following case is offered as a contribution to this question, upon which as yet there is a considerable diversity of opinion among Pathologists.

On Nov. 7th, 1876, I performed an autopsy on a large, powerfully-built, muscular man, who had died with all the symptoms of chronic valvular disease, and in whom great dilatation and hypertrophy of the heart were found, but without presenting any of the conditions commonly recognized as productive of these states,—no valvular affection, no arterial degeneration, no emphysema, or other chronic pulmonary disorder, no renal disease; there was, in fact, an entire absence of the lesions usually met with in cases of this kind.

I am indebted to my colleague Dr. Ross for permission to use