

# THE CANADIAN PRACTITIONER

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## Original Communications.

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### FOREIGN BODIES IN THE STOMACH AND TRACHEA.

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REPORT OF A CASE

BY JOHN CAVEN, M.D., AND THOMAS WEIR, M.D.

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In the *British Medical Journal* of January 7th, 1893, Mr. Cant, of Lincoln, reports a successful gastrotomy performed upon a lunatic for the purpose of removing a razor, which he had swallowed, from his stomach. In the following case, unfortunately, operation was not permitted; but the history is of extreme interest, as illustrating what may be done in the way of swallowing foreign bodies, the tolerance of or insensitiveness to such bodies in the insane on the part of normally delicate and highly sensitive surfaces, and the curious pathological changes induced.

The patient, W.T., aged 23, had been a masturbator, and his insanity was perhaps due to this. He had been an inmate of Toronto Asylum for four years and three months, and was considered incurable. His habits, when eating, were such that it was found necessary to place him at a small table by himself, this being within six feet of that occupied by the attendants. The door leading from the dining-room into the ward of which it opened was locked, and the knives, forks, and spoons counted before patients were allowed out. The description of the articles used is as follows: