

# The Canadian Practitioner and Review.

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## Original Communications.

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### JUDGMENT IN THE CRICHTON CASE.

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SIR JOHN BOYD, CHANCELLOR.

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*Re* CRICHTON.

DECEMBER 15, 1906.

This lengthened enquiry has resulted in a mis-trial. To manifest this it is necessary to consider the proceedings briefly.

The charge, as originally launched on 24th January, 1905, was that A. Crichton "did in the years 1902-3-4 cause to be issued to the public and the drug trade, circulars and advertisements as to the efficacy of 'grippura' as a cure for grippe and influenza, and in so advertising was guilty of infamous and disgraceful conduct in a professional respect."

There was no publication in the newspapers, but the objectionable circular was sent by mail to various persons, "intelligent persons," says the accused, selected from names in the directory and Bradstreets, page 40. The circular is in the form of a broad sheet (22 in. x 14 in. in size) except that it is printed on both sides and contains a miscellaneous jumble of testimonials, references to different diseases, commendation of grippura, information about the doctor himself and his discovery, and quotations as "to many important discoveries being fearfully hindered and opposed at the start," page 21.

At the opening of the investigation particulars of the charge were sought, but this was refused by the prosecution on the ground that all might be found in the circular.

The doctor was then questioned at large under oath as to all