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## Original Articles

### DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF SMALLPOX.\*

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*Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,*—Up to the time of the present epidemic quite a number of our medical men had never seen a case of smallpox, even during their college days. The disease has been so rare with us, except in Quebec, that comparatively few ever had to treat a case. The diagnosis of the disease is not always an easy matter, even to those who have had the most extended experience. At the first visit, in the earliest stages of the disease, the most expert diagnosticians are often in doubt; but a careful scrutiny will usually clear up the diagnosis, so that an intelligent medical man should not be excused, after having reasonable opportunity, for saying a case was Cuban itch, elephant itch, Philippine rash, or any other unknown and hitherto unheard of disease. The present epidemic has been in existence on the Continent of North America since 1897, and has prevailed in every State of the Union, in Canada, and in Mexico.

That the disease is smallpox is believed by 75 per cent. of the medical men on the continent, including the most able, the closest observers, and those who have had the greatest experience in smallpox. Dr. McCombie says the difficulties in the diagnosis may be divided into two stages: (1) the difficul-

\* Read at meeting of the Manitoba Southern Medical Association, held at Brandon, Man., February 26th, 1902.