

# The Maritime Medical News,

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

VOL. IV.

HALIFAX, N. S., NOVEMBER, 1892.

No. 11.

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### Original Communications.

#### \* ANALOGY BETWEEN GRIPPE AND DIPHTHERITIC PARALYSIS.

BY E. REAVLEY, M. D., CANTERBURY, N. B.

So many cases of paresis and paralysis occurred during the late epidemic that I was forced to regard influenza as the chief factor in their production. The object of reporting cases at this convention is not to instruct, but to gain knowledge by a comparison of experience, to obtain the opinion of men who are eminent in the profession. Many of you have, perhaps, seen a greater number of similar cases and may have more correctly attributed their production to some other disease. It is hardly necessary to remind you that for years men have known that the infectious fevers may be followed by paralysis, due to toxins generated in the system. Diphtheria gives us the most frequent examples while it is observed much less frequently after measles and scarlatina.

\* Paper read before the New Brunswick Medical Society, 1892.

Influenza is also said to produce it. This is disputed by many. It would be utterly impossible to reconcile the conflicting statements made by many eminent observers, e. g., Prof. Thompson, in a lecture delivered at Gresham College, reported in the Br. Med. Jour. Nov., '91, asserted that diphtheritic paralysis was essentially motor, while that of influenza was sensory. Since the late epidemic few will accept the second part of his proposition.

Errors in diagnosis may account in some measure for difference of opinion: e. g., a recent endemic of cerebro spinal meningitis was regarded as grippe until a physician of greater experience and skill pointed out the error. Dr. Althous (London Lancet, Nov. 14th and 21st, '91) in speaking of post-febrile neuroses says that "as a cause of the production of all kinds and forms of nervous diseases grippe stands facile princeps among all infectious fevers." "Syphilis alone equals it in the number of lesions, but grippe is more destructive to nerve tissues." Dr. C. K. Mills, of Philadelphia, includes among its sequels neuritis simple and multiple-inflammation of