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ASTHMA.*
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I INTEND in the following paper to record a few of the cases of asthma that have come under my notice during the past year in which I have endeavored to ascertain the exciting causes of the attacks. They also serve to illustrate some of the vagaries of the disease in its etiology and course.

Up to the present time, I am afraid we cannot congratulate ourselves upon much practical advance in our knowledge of the nature of this affection. That it is essentially a spasmodic condition of the muscles of the smaller bronchi, by which both the entrance into and exit from the air cells of air is impeded, but especially the latter, is generally believed, and also that this spasm is due to irritation of certain nerves, of which probably the pneumogastric and phrenic are the principal; but how this irritation is

* Read at the meeting of Canada Medical Association, Kingston, Ont.