

The Canadian Journal of Medicine and Surgery

A JOURNAL PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN THE INTEREST OF
MEDICINE AND SURGERY

VOL. III.

TORONTO, MARCH, 1898.

NO. 3.

Original Contributions.

Certainly it is excellent discipline for an author to feel that he must say all he has to say in the fewest possible words, or his reader is sure to skip them; and in the plainest possible words, or his reader will certainly misunderstand them. Generally, also, a downright fact may be told in a plain way; and we want downright facts at present more than anything else. — RUSKIN.

SOME CASES OF COLORED VISION.

By JAMES MACCALLUM, B.A., M.D.,

Oculist and Aurist to Victoria Hospital for Sick Children; Assistant Physician to Toronto General Hospital; Professor of Therapeutics in the University of Toronto.

In medical literature the cases of colored vision most frequently described are the toxic ones: xanthopsia, or yellow vision, due to jaundice or to the ingestion of santonin, picric acid, or chromic acid; erythropsia, or red vision, from the seeds of *hyoscyamus niger*, or from the mescal button.

The colored vision of jaundice, and that of santonin and picric acid may fairly be described as mechanical, inasmuch as the humors of the eye are discolored, and objects necessarily take on the hue of the straining.

Red vision may be of much graver import, as in the following case:

W. P., aged 20. In July, 1896, objects appeared to him to be of a red color. This erythropsia disappeared at the end of September, but reappeared at Christmas. Redness more marked to the left eye. When seen by me in February, 1897, objects still appeared red. Ophthalmoscopic examination showed hæmorrhage into the vitreous, so great as to prevent the fundus being seen. Later on he had another hæmorrhage, after which, by oblique illumination, blood was seen just behind the iris, and the retina was detached. Vision, hand reflex. Physical examination revealed organic heart disease of rheumatic origin.

How necessary an ophthalmoscopic examination, and how grave the prognosis may be in cases of colored vision is evident from this case.