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## Original Communications.

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### NOTES ON AN EPIDEMIC OF MILD SMALLPOX.\*

BY

F. G. FINLEY, M.D.,

Assistant Professor of Medicine and Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, McGill University ; Physician to the Montreal General Hospital.

During the past three years an extremely mild type of smallpox has been prevalent in many of the Southern and Northern States and in certain parts of Canada.

Owing to certain peculiarities in its clinical features, much confusion has arisen in the diagnosis of the disease. According to Probst it has been prevalent for months in some districts without its true nature being suspected.

The low mortality noticed in many districts has been a very striking feature of the epidemic. Thus in New Orleans there were 232 cases and 5 deaths; in Ohio, 1882 cases and 30 deaths (Probst); and in a series of 128 cases reported by Welch, there were no deaths.

Having recently had an opportunity of seeing a number of cases of this affection at Sudbury, a town with between two and three thousand inhabitants, I wish to refer to the chief clinical features of the malady and to contrast them with the more familiar type of the disease. I am much indebted to Drs. Howey and Arthur, and to the Local Board of Health for the opportunity of seeing these cases.

The disease arose from several sources. The first case in the district was an Indian on the reservation, who seems to have brought the disease from the Sault. Several other cases came in from the Lumber Camps in the neighbourhood.

Altogether I examined 14 cases in various stages of the malady. There were 12 males and 2 females, all being whites. One was a child of 6, 10 were between the ages of 18 and 30, and 2 between the ages of 30

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