

# CANADA MEDICAL RECORD

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## Original Communications.

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### WHAT CLASSES OF INJURIES TO THE HUMAN BODY DEPENDENT ON VIOLENCE ARE CAUSED BY ALCOHOLIC EXCESSES.\*

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Anyone who has had a surgical service in a general hospital well knows that among adults a considerable proportion of the cases coming under his care, of a grave traumatic character, are either immediately or remotely the result of that curse of mankind, the excessive indulgence in alcoholics.

In order that we may the better appreciate how the lethal effects of alcohol operate in these cases it becomes necessary that we should first understand what the pathological action of this chemical is.

#### MODE OF ACTION ON THE CEREBRO-SPINAL SYSTEM, ON THE BRAIN AND SPINE.

Alcohol in large or repeated doses simultaneously acts on the brain and spinal cord, with varying intensity and manifestations in different individuals, and in the same individual, under various circumstances.

#### EFFECTS ON THE BRAIN.

Its most constant and unvarying property is to weaken the will power and the faculty of reflection and judgment.

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\*Read before International Temperance Congress at Prohibition Park, Staten Island, N. Y., medical session of the American Medical Temperance Association.