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Original Communications.

Narcotic Addiction.*

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THE ever-increasing prevalence of narcotic addiction, whose terribly enslaving results seriously disturb the vital and moral phenomena of life and have a most important bearing upon mental responsibility, calls importunately for a more rational and scientific line of treatment than usually prevails.

These cases prove a lucrative source of revenue to the charlatan, whose florid advertisements and alluring promises lead his unfortunate dupes to believe in a secret "sure cure," with early and painless emancipation from their slavery, and such empirics easily extort large sums of money from the too trusting victims of this baneful malady. The busy practitioner cannot devote the requisite time and attention to the study and management of these cases which their importance demands; and home treatment, with few exceptions and for obvious reasons, proves unsatisfactory, disappointing and futile. In the

* Read before the Ontario Medical Association, at Toronto, June 6th, 1895.