

CANADA

## Medical and Surgical Journal.

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### PARALYSED OR DRUNK.

Nothing is more common than to find in the London Medical papers notices of the mistaken arrest of individuals under the supposition of drunkenness, when in reality they had been suffering from some cerebral affection or the result of accident, and, whenever carelessness has been shown on the part of the proper functionaries in investigating the case, and when required, remedying it as quickly as possible, no scruple is felt in dealing out rebuke and censure to those in fault. And most important it is that the press—the medical press especially—should thus raise its voice to prevent the grievous injury of disgrace and imprisonment being inflicted upon any member of the community by those placed in authority for the repression and punishment of social abuses. The public have a right to expect, and the press have a right to insist that, where there is the faintest shadow of doubt in any case, every magistrate shall use all possible and reasonable circumspection, and shall not condemn to jail one who is physically afflicted as one who has committed a social crime.

A few weeks ago there arrived in this port a sailor who had, during a long voyage, developed the unmistakable symptoms of Locomotor Ataxia which had been threatening him for some time. The day following he left his ship, and was endeavoring, with the hesitating and uncertain gait peculiar to his disease to make his way to the General Hospital, when he was overhauled by a city policeman, and in spite of his earnest remonstrances, he was dragged to the station, charged with being drunk. On the morrow