

CANADA

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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Cases of Scarlatinal Empyema occurring in the Practice of FRANCIS W. SHERRIFF, M.D., with a Note from Dr. R. P. HOWARD.

On the 9th April, 1842, I was called a distance of ten miles to visit two sons of Mr. James Lunan; the eldest, John, was 5 years old; the other, William, was three years. They were seized *ten weeks* before with scarlatina, both at the same time, and they recovered easily. At the end of a fortnight they were both seized with pyrexial symptoms and general anasarca. An irregular practitioner living in the neighborhood attended them constantly until I was called in.

On examination I found them both laying on the left side, having been unable, for the past eight weeks, to lay on the right; the respiration was, in both, very laborious, and they constantly made a moaning noise; their shoulders were elevated, and they kept their right arms extended, generally grasping firmly their right knee; the left side emitted no sound on percussion; John's chest was $23\frac{3}{4}$ inches in circumference, and the left side $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches larger than the right, and the left side of William was 1 inch larger than his right; their abdomens were much protruded, giving the appearance of ascites; their hearts beat on the right side; their tongues were much furred; urine was scanty, and bowels confined; the appetite good; had frequent desire to go to stool, but had little evacuations; pulse, 118—feeble.

I applied blisters to both, and gave the following prescription: Inf. Digital, ζ xvj.; Spts. Ether Nit. Potas. Acet. *aa.* ζ j. A tablespoonful every eight hours. In addition, Calomel, Pulv. Scillæ, Pulv. Rhei., *aa.* gr. j., in pill every eight hours.

At the end of one week William could lay on his right side, and the circumference of chest diminished; abdomen not so distended; general appearance of countenance improved. As will shortly be