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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ART. XXXII.—*Laryngismus Stridulus*. By JAMES BARNES, M.D.,
Edin.

As far as my information enables me to conjecture an opinion, *Laryngismus Stridulus* is a much more common disease in Canada than Great Britain, and its frequency in this country, as a complaint among children, seems to be much greater in summer than at any other season of the year. It is said, also, to be more prevalent in warmer climates than our own. It would be difficult to explain these two latter assertions, except upon the supposition that this disease is primarily and essentially of a *nervous* character. Assuming this to be correct, it can be readily understood how the nervous system, naturally so mobile in the infant and child, should become enfeebled and irritated by excessive heat, and thus predispose more favorably to the action of some general exciting influence which may cause the disease. There are many direct sources of nervous irritation which produce symptoms very analogous to those which characterize *Laryngismus Stridulus*. Indeed, so undoubted are these causes, and so evident the symptoms of laryngeal irritation, that many standard authorities in medicine have been led to view the disease we are considering, as altogether a secondary complaint, and one always symptomatic of some other affection, previously existing within the system, whether situated in a remote part of the body or in the vicinity of the larynx. Such causes, as have been described, may be enumerated as follows:—Mechanical irritation of the larynx either by a neighbouring tumour or by the impaction of a foreign body in the pharynx—irritation of teething—derangement of the stomach—hysteria—mental emotions and determination of blood to the head. It is convenient also, in such cases, to explain the connexion between the supposed cause and effect upon the modern doctrine of nervous reflex action. But, while fully acknowledging the secondary nature of