

THE
MONTREAL MEDICAL GAZETTE,
BEING A
MONTHLY JOURNAL OF MEDICINE,
AND
THE COLLATERAL SCIENCES.

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VOL. I. MONTREAL, NOVEMBER 1, 1844. No. 8.

CYNANCHE PAROTIDÆA.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE MONTREAL MEDICAL GAZETTE.

This epidemic, manifestly contagious, has hitherto, I believe, engaged but very partially the attention of medical writers; being, in general, left to terminate its own course, without the assistance or employment of remedial means, and thereby, as in similar morbid invasions of the system, trusting too much upon those laws of organism,* for correcting and restoring deviation from natural actions to their normal condition. This epidemic, however, having in this section, and at this season, proved much more serious, and much more dangerous, than at any other period of its prevalence, I have been induced, from the great number of cases which have fallen under my own immediate auspices, to note down a few observations.

The disease made its appearance in the commencement of June last, and has only disappeared within a few days. The primary symptoms were as usually described: pyrexia, soon followed with a considerable tumor of the external fauces and neck, but generally

* The Homoeopathic practice of Hahneman, which begins to count so many followers in Germany, is nothing more than pure expectation. So inveterate and deep-rooted are preconceived notions and prejudices, that, accustomed to regard medicines as the only means of combating and curing diseases, the Homoeopaths attribute in their treatment every favourable tendency or change to the undoubted effect of a millionth, trillionth, and even-quadrillionth part of a drop of * * * &c., rather than to any conservative actions of the system itself. It seems never to enter the thoughts of many Physicians, that the all-wise Deity, in forming the admirable "piece of work, man," the most complex and refined of mechanisms, exposed to innumerable morbid causes, internal and external, constantly subjected to a vast variety of aggressions, calculated to disturb the harmony of its actions, to disorder its functions, and to disorganise its structure, should have left it without any inherent powers for its conservation and protection.