CANADA

MEDICAL JOURNAL.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

An Essay on the Contagion, Infection, Portability, and Communicability of the Asiatic Cholera in its relations to Quarantine; with a brief History of its Origin and Course in Canada, from 1832. By W. Marsden, A.M., M.D., ex-President and Governor of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Canada East; Honorary Fellow Medico-Botanical Society, London; Corresponding Fellow Medical Society, London; Honorary Fellow Montreal Pathological Society; Honorary Fellow Berkshire Medical Institute and Lyceum Natural History; Honorary Fellow Medico-Chirurgical Society, New York; Member by Invitation of the American Medical Association, &c., &c., &c.

(Continued from our last.)

Dr. Rowand, a distinguished physician, and one of the surgeons of the Marine and Emigrant Hospital of Quebec, was originally appointed one of the Quarantine commissioners, but resigned in consequence of personal affairs requiring his presence at the Red River. On his return from this trip, he kindly furnished me with notes, from which I make some condensed abstracts favouring the doctrine of the infection and contagion.

On crossing the Western Prairies, and when beyond the limits of rail-road extension, where habitations are "few and far between," and where the stage-coach or caravan are almost the only means of conveyance, Dr. Rowand traced the cholera on the track of the emigrant passengers all along that route. Cases of Asiatic Cholera had broken out just where they had touched or stopped; while in all the surrounding country, where there had been no intercourse or communication with these emigrants, perfect immunity from the pestilence was enjoyed. The Doctor adds, that the emigrants were Germans, and so were the passengers of the "Glenmanna" and "John Howell," who introduced the disease into Canada; and he believes they were from among the passengers of these unfortunate vessels.