

W. F. HAMILTON, 1891  
and  
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AN OBSCURE CASE OF PURPURA HÆMORRHAGICA WITH  
INFECTION BY THE BACILLUS AEROGENES  
CAPSULATUS.

BY

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It may be said that the great majority of cases of purpura are obscure. While we may observe the clinical aspects of such cases and classify them according to outstanding features presented by this case or by that, yet there come, and these not infrequently, cases conforming to no type. On the other hand a given case manifests classifying points of a variety of cases during the course of its development. Obscure must they remain until by the aid of added research some ætiological factors are discovered, some certain basis of classification established.

The case which is here reported has some of the clinical features of those described and designated by Henoch as "purpura fulminans" but it differs from them in its duration and in its hæmorrhagic features.

T. S., æt. 22, student in arts at McGill University, was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital on the morning of Nov. 7th, 1896, complaining of spitting of small quantities of blood and of spots over his body.

He was a well developed and a well nourished young man. He had never resided outside his native province, Quebec. His health had been good with the exception of sickness due to measles, mumps, whooping-cough and chicken-pox in his childhood. Besides the eruptions due to these diseases he described a bright red itchy papular eruption which came out in the spring of 1895. This became pustular in part and disappeared at the end of four weeks. The history is altogether negative, touching the points of hæmophilia, malignant disease, previous attacks, rheumatism, venereal disease, use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and privation. It seems probable from his statements concerning his family that tuberculosis affects one brother. Beyond recurring hæmoptysis in this member and an attack of hæmatemesis in a paternal aunt there was no evidence of hæmorrhagic diathesis.