

CANADA
MEDICAL RECORD

VOL. XXIV.

AUGUST, 1896.

No. 11.

Original Communications.

SCARLATINAL DROPSY.

A Clinical Lecture delivered at the Montreal General Hospital by Francis W. Campbell, M.A., M.D., L.R.C.P. London, D.C.L., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Bishop's College.

The child now before you is aged 5 years, and has had scarlet fever, of that there is no doubt. The mother tells us that about two weeks ago, after an afternoon of what she terms "indisposition," it went to bed decidedly "out of sorts." During the night it awoke crying, and almost immediately was seized with violent vomiting, which lasted some time, that is to say, it vomited repeatedly during an hour or two. The following morning it was feverish, and complained of sore throat and had some difficulty in swallowing. During the following night the child was hot and very restless, and when daylight came she noticed that it was covered with a bright red rash. Medical advice was called in, and the doctor pronounced it scarlet fever. The case, however, does not seem to have been very severe, for the throat symptoms—the gauge of the severity of the disease—soon improved, and a week ago the doctor ceased attendance after giving advice—good, I have no doubt—as to the future general treatment of the case. It is not clear when desquamation set in, but as it is in full activity at this moment, I should say it began about five days ago, which is just the date when this child was allowed out of bed. This was a grave error, and in direct disobedience, it is admitted, of the doctor's orders. The mother says "the child was so well and she begged so hard I could not refuse her." It would have been well had she done so.