

THE CANADIAN
Journal of Medical Science,

A Monthly Journal of British and Foreign Medical
Science, Criticism, and News.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—*We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere, current medical news of general interest. Secretaries of County or Territorial medical associations will oblige by sending their addresses to the corresponding editor.*

TORONTO, MAY, 1878.

QUIGILA (BRAZIL), GAFEIRA (PORTUGAL), LEPRA ANÆSTHETICA, VEL DACTYLIANA OF EUROPEAN AUTHORS.

Under the above heading we have found, in the October issue of the fortnightly *Medico Chirurgical Review* of Buenos Ayres, published under the able direction of Dr. Emillio Coni, a series of nine very interesting and instructive reports of cases of the above remarkable and destructive malady. Whether the disease here so graphically illustrated by our able cotemporary, is of generic affinity to the affection known as the leprosy of the Greeks, and that of various tropical regions, or stands in even closer relation with that Norwegian scourge which modern tourists, as well as native physicians, have depicted with thrilling fidelity, we are unqualified to suggest. We are gratified to learn, from a notification in the December number of Dr. Coni's *Review*, that he was then on the point of setting out on a tour of observation through the provinces in which the disease most largely prevailed, with the view of acquiring a fuller knowledge of its etiology and endemic prevalence, and we look forward with fond anticipation to the published results of his laudable exploration. We regret that our disposable space precludes the reproduction of the whole of the cases presented by Dr. Coni, for they are all deeply interesting, and have all been detailed with judicious exactitude. We have made a selection of the fifth case, as fairly illustrative of the more salient features of the disease in question. The following is a translation from the Spanish original :—

"Cipriana Vivas, an Argentine, female, aged

54, always engaged in domestic labours, of normal constitution, and highly lymphatic temperament, was examined by us at her residence, No. 585 Chili Street, 8th July, 1877."

Her progenitors and collaterals had been persons of good health, none having suffered from any nervous or skin affection. The patient had undergone small-pox, measles, scarlatina, cholera, yellow fever, and an hysteric attack. She was a native of Buenos Ayres, and had always resided there. In September, 1838, she gave birth to her first son, having up to this time enjoyed good health, saving the eruptive fevers above mentioned. Fifteen days after her confinement she was taken with a strong disgust, to which she ascribed the cause of her malady, which commenced in a formication, followed by insensibility, in the hands and feet, to such an extent as to render the former unfit for the discharge of her accustomed work. At the same time there was presented a tumefaction of the face, coincident with muscular prostration, which obliged her to keep her bed. An apothecary was called in; he prescribed mustard baths to the feet, rice, and orange leaves, and the application of sinapisms to the legs and feet. The rubefacient action of the mustard gave no uneasiness, and in consequence her mother continued the application throughout the night, the result of which was intense vesication. To this irrational medication the patient imputed her loss of power over the feet. A physician being called in, he prescribed two bleedings and some tisans and baths. She presently was restored to her former condition, but she found that the formication and insensibility persisted. Some time after there supervened intense pain in the lumbar region and the vertebral column, with complete paraplegia. The physician ordered bleeding on three succeeding days, warm baths three times daily, spare diet, suspension of lactation of the child she was suckling. The first bleeding restored the movements of one leg, and the second those of the other. The attack kept her in bed fifteen days; on its subsidence she was able to perceive that the tactile sensibility had much improved, and her hands were not so torpid as before. Some time afterwards there began successively, at