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Canadian Medical Review.

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Original Communications.

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Diphtheria and its Treatment.\*

BY DR. C. R. CHARTERIS, CHATHAM.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—In bringing the subject of diphtheria and its treatment before you it is not with the object of advancing any new theories, but to elicit a discussion upon its treatment particularly by antitoxine, that we may obtain the views of the profession as to the value of this remedy in the treatment of diphtheria. Diphtheria, as we know, is a local specific disease, due to the presence and action of bacilli, characterized by a deposit of pseudo membrane at the site of infection, and accompanied by constitutional and nervous disturbances due to the absorption into the system of the toxalbumen produced by these bacilli. Diphtheria may fairly be set down as arising mainly from bad drainage and imperfect ventilation, such as we have in overcrowded tenement houses. The first symptom complained of is sore throat, when upon examination we find the fauces very much swollen and congested, and on

\* Read at meeting of Ontario Medical Association.