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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ART. XIV.—*On the non-contagious nature of Scarlatina.* By LUCIUS O'BRIEN, M. D., M. R. C. S. E., Toronto.

[The following sketch was read at a meeting of the Toronto Medico-Chirurgical Society, in October, 1844, in consequence of my having, in conversation with some of the members, expressed my conviction of the non-contagious nature of Scarlet fever. At that time, I stood alone in Toronto in this opinion. Since then, I have seen nothing to induce any change in this opinion; and a careful examination of the several authors within my reach, has shewn me that their *belief* in this contagion is of a very dubious character, and not grounded on a similarly firm foundation as in regard to Small Pox, Measles, and Typhus; e.g., Rayer says that it is contagious, "but in a less degree than measles."

In speaking of the fever which prevailed in Edinburgh in 1817 and seq: I have used the term "typhus" in accordance with the *then* prevalent opinion, although it was a very different form of fever, if not essentially different, from that which prevailed so fearfully in Ireland, and of which we had such melancholy illustrations amongst ourselves in 1847. The fever in Edinburgh alluded to has been lately happily described under the term "Relapsing fever," in consequence of one very distinctive character. It is to be hoped that the Editor of the *Journal* will notice this important subject.]

Toronto, August 18, 1852.