

Original Communications.

Headaches. Treatment by Guarana by JAMES PER-
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lege, Montreal.

H. R., a wealthy merchant of this city, suffered fearfully from severe headaches. He was liable to be attacked at any time of the day, and more particularly on those days when business cares pressed more heavily upon him. His digestive organs were in good condition, and had never suffered from constipation nor any of the many different forms of dyspepsia. Among articles of diet, stimulants alone would bring on the headache. He could not read any article, however light and amusing, without immediately suffering. The pain extended over the temporal and occipital regions, and down the neck, not following the course of any particular nerve. Never felt any nausea during an attack. Artificial light of any kind, either in his study or store, caused the pain to be intense, and then he only felt it on the crown of his head. If he bowed his body to pick up anything from the floor, it was as much as he could do to regain the erect posture. Sometimes the pain was so agonizing that he was obliged to lie down from sheer inability to hold up his head. Previous to his coming under my care, he had been leeches, blistered repeatedly behind the ears, had been ordered bromide of potassium, valerianate of ammonia, iodide of potassium, quinine, without deriving even temporary benefit, and he had also given homoeopathy a fair trial. At last he was obliged to absent himself from business, when he went to the country for a couple of months and returned much better. A month after re-application to business, the headaches returned, but not so severe as formerly. This was six months ago. Lately, however, their severity has been increasing, and he says they are nearly as bad as ever. A mutual friend advised him to come to me for electrical treatment, and this is the history I elicited from him. Hearing so much about the wonderful effects of guarana in kindred cases, I expressed my wish to give it a trial. He consented, and I prescribed 30 grs. of the powder in water, to be taken when the pain was severe. It acted exceedingly well, completely relieving him of all his headache. At present he can invariably prevent an attack by taking the above dose when he feels the premonitory symptoms coming on. Very little is known, I think, of the actions of guarana further than its

effects in similar cases. My patient tells me, that, shortly after a dose and immediately after the pain is gone, he feels a kind of pleasurable sensation all over, something akin to that experienced by opium eaters.

I have also given guarana to a young lady engaged in giving music lessons with the same satisfactory results. These are the only cases where I have prescribed it. If I should meet with one where this remedy proves of no service, I shall give you the notes of the case.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Canada Medical Record.

SIR,—I am a graduate in medicine of one of the leading Universities in the Dominion, and have qualified myself in every possible way for the practice of my profession. A few years ago I settled in the city where I graduated, hoping that in time a share of patronage would come my way. I have acted consistently and professionally, I believe, in all my dealings with my confreres, and so far as I am aware I am on good terms with all my professional brethren. A short time ago, one of the leading medical practitioners in the city where I reside retired from practice, and although asked by nearly every one of his patients whom he would recommend to occupy his place, he declined to make any selection—saying, there were very many good medical men in the place, and that no error could be committed by selecting for themselves. Many sought the services of senior members of the profession and professors in the University of which I am a graduate, but who for various reasons declined to add to the list of their patients. They, however, no longer left the patient free to choose for himself—for their non-acceptance was accompanied with a strong recommendation for them to employ one of two or three names suggested by them. These names were on every occasion those of the junior professors of my Alma Mater. Upon more than one occasion, I have heard that the applicant has ventured to name one or two medical men, outsiders, so to speak, and that although no actual disparaging words were used, the significant shrug of the shoulders which was given was quite sufficient. In this way I know that a prominent member of the profession was deprived of a very wealthy patient. The death