

TO THE EDITORS OF THE MONTREAL MEDICAL GAZETTE.

GENTLEMEN,—In compliance with your request, I have the pleasure of furnishing you with notes of two cases of Ramollissement of the brain, which I related at a meeting of the Medico-Chirurgical Society. The subject is one full of interest, and still in much obscurity, although considerable light has been thrown on it, by the researches of recent pathologists.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. CRAWFORD, M.D.

St. James' Place, 20th Feb. 8145.

Mr. C. a young gentleman 17 years of age, tall and thin, of particularly quiet and temperate habits, and generally in the enjoyment of good health; but occasionally liable to headach: received a blow on his forehead, from a light piece of wood, which was swinging from a part of the apparatus in a Gymnasium, on the 17th of January last.—He felt slightly stunned for the moment, but was not knocked down; a headach followed immediately afterwards, to which he did not pay much attention; next day (although the headach still continued,) he visited the gymnasium, but did not feel himself equal to take part in the amusements; on the 19th he went for a short time on snow shoes; the exercise, however, increasing the headach, he soon returned home. On the 20th he took a dose of salts, which he supposed turned his stomach, as vomiting came on, and returned at intervals during that day; next morning, the headach continuing with irritability of stomach, I was desired to call and see him; he then complained of headach, principally in the forehead, and left temple, of a throbbing character, aggravated by even a slight noise, intolerance of light, and some degree of nausea, skin cool, pulse 60 small, pupils natural, countenance not indicating any suffering, and free from flushing, or unusual heat. He got calomel grs. X, and was desired to apply cold water and vinegar to his forehead; 22nd, did not sleep much in the night, the headach and pulse as before. *Infus., Senna-c., Mag. sulpt. oz. ij., 2nd quaque hora ad effect, applic hirudines vi. tempori sinistro, et vesicat, nuchæ*; 23rd, some relief from the headach, which was only transient, pulse 60, *repetantur hirudin 12. tempori*; the calomel in doses of gr. vi. was ordered every 4th hour, his hair to be cut short, and the cold applications continued, as the temperature of the head was rather above the natural standard; no febrile indications, nor thirst, countenance at ease, pupils irritable, but not contracted, felt his head light, and himself weak, when he got out of bed; 24th, passed a quiet night, but did not appear to sleep much, pulse only 46, small, weak and unequal, skin cool, headach as before, bowels confined. Doctor Campbell saw him with me to-day. Several attempts were made to get blood from his arm, but in consequence of the smallness of the veins and languidness of the circulation in the superficial vessels, scarcely any was got; in like manner opening the temporal artery was in a great measure ineffectual, leeches were repeated to the head, which was shaved; sinapisms to his legs, and the calomel continued every three hours, with small quantities of nitrate of potash, a drop of cro-