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### *Original Communications.*

#### THE QUININE TREATMENT OF WHOOPING COUGH.

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I do not propose to enter upon a description of whooping cough, its history, etiology or sequelæ, but simply to make a few remarks upon a plan of treating the disease, which I have followed for the past seven years, and which has yielded me well nigh complete success. Although not usually a fatal disease, yet it is so prolonged, seldom lasting less than two months, and often continuing four to six months, with symptoms so distressing, especially to those whose duties bring them continually in contact with the little patients, that any plan of treating it with a more than usual amount of success, must be deserving of our best attention. It may, I think, be asserted with truth, that generally the family physician does not realize the torture which parents experience when the distressing spasms seize their children. The physician is too apt to look upon the disease as one that must run its course; and beyond giving an expectorant mixture, possibly containing some antispasmodic, and ordering some form of counter-irritation, is content to let time do most of the work. That under such treatment patients will get well, is doubtless true, but they do so, leaving behind a constitution sorely tried, sometimes all

but completely wrecked. I, of course, am aware of the many remedies which have been suggested for the treatment of whooping cough. Thus I have tried hyosciamus, belladonna, the bromides, antimony, chloral, salicylic acid, and a host of others. I have used emetics of alum, ipecac, and sulphate of copper. But all have failed, as a rule, to give more than temporary relief. I have not been conscious of the disease being in any way cut short. In 1879, it so happened, that in my own family I had one of the worst cases of the disease it has ever been my lot to meet with. I tried several remedies without the slightest benefit. I consulted all the standard authorities within my reach, but got little information to satisfy me. I devoted some nights to hunting up articles on whooping cough in a variety of journals within my reach, but I did not meet with any satisfaction till I came across a paper in the Canada Medical Record for July, 1873, by Dr. Dawson, Professor of Diseases of children in the University of New York, on the treatment of whooping cough by quinine. In this paper it is stated that Dr. Binz, of the University of Bonn, was, in 1870, the first person to direct attention to this plan of treatment, and to state that it had yielded him invaluable results. He considered whooping cough to be a neurosis of the pneumogastric nerve, caused by infectious and irritating mucus, that has accumulated in the pharynx and larynx. By experiment he found that quinine destroyed, even when highly diluted, all structures found in normal mucus, and he presumed (and he says correctly) that it would do the same on the mucus of pertussis. In the American Journal of the Medical Sciences of 1871, there is a paper by Dr. Let-