

# CANADA MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Puerperal Convulsions without Albuminuria (in a case of twins,) treated by Chloroform and the Artificial Induction of Labour.* By DONALD MACLEAN, M.D., L.R.C.S.E., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, and Lecturer on Clinical Surgery, Queen's University, Kingston.

*Case.*—Mrs. C., (Township of Storrington) aged 32. Pregnant for the sixth time, has had twins once before.

All her previous pregnancies and confinements having been, so far as she is aware, quite normal. Her general health has always been excellent, until within the last three months, during which she has been subject to severe attacks of neuralgia in the head, face and neck. Six weeks ago she applied to me on account of one of these neuralgic attacks, and I succeeded in instantaneously arresting her severe sufferings by the hypodermic injection of solution of morphia.

The respite lasted for a fortnight, but at the end of that time she again applied to me and with the same result, by the same means as on the previous occasion.

I heard no more of her until the 29th ult., when her husband called on me and stated that Mrs. C. had been suffering very severely from neuralgia in the head, neck and left shoulder for several days, and that on the previous day (Sunday the 28th) spasmodic movements (twitchings) had appeared in the left arm, that these movements, as well as the neuralgic pains had gradually increased in violence, until sometime through the night, they culminated in what appeared to him a regular epileptic fit, which left her in a state of stupor, from which she had not altogether recovered when he left her early on Monday morning.

I at once suspected puerperal convulsions and acceded to Mr. C's request, to see her as soon as possible. We arrived at Mr. C's house, which is twelve miles distant, at 2 p.m. on Monday, and found the