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Series of Cases of Poisoning, by Vinum Colchici recently occurring in Montreal. BY GEO. W. MAJOR, B.A., M.D.

Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal.)

At 1.30 P.M., on Wednesday Nov. 26th the Police authorities summoned me to attend several persons, reported to have taken some unknown poison, in large quantities :

Detective Lafon, accompanied me and informed me, while on our way, that one case had proved fatal at 12 A.M., and it was only reported at the station after the first death.

On arriving at the place, I found in the tenement, five persons, suffering intensely. I asked for the vessel in which the poison was contained, and was shewn a large "Winchester" bottle capable of containing 94 ounces. On smelling, I thought I detected a "vinous" smell. The bottle had been washed after its contents had been emptied. On enquiry, the victims described the taste as resembling port wine and bark. After drinking, it left a very bitter taste in the mouth. In another dwelling on the opposite side of the yard, were several more cases of poisoning by the same liquid, one very severe in its symptoms.

I was quite unable to decide as to what the poison could be ; all my questions were freely answered, but little information of any value was obtained. On examining Flaherty, (case No. 3) I learned that on the evening of Monday the 24th, he, in company with a cripple, Willie