

# MEDICAL CHRONICLE.

VOL. VI.]

AUGUST, 1858.

[No. 3.

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## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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ARTICLE V.—*Poisoning by Hyoscyamus Niger, producing a Scarlatinal eruption.* By ROBERT CRAIK, M.D., House Surgeon to the Montreal General Hospital, and Demonstrator of Anatomy in the University of McGill College.

I offer no apology for presenting the following case to the readers of the *Chronicle*, as any fact which can tend to throw additional light on the action of the *Solanaceæ* must be considered as worthy of being placed upon record. It is now largely admitted that one of the *solanaceæ*—belladonna—has the power of warding off that fatal scourge of families, scarlatina, and this prophylactic power would seem to be in some way connected with the production of a rash upon the skin, which that drug is known sometimes to produce. Stramonium is also known to have occasionally produced a similar eruption, but I have failed to discover any notice of such an eruption from the action of hyoscyamus. A case is mentioned in the 22d number of the *American Journal* (new series) in which three drachms of the tincture of hyoscyamus was said to have produced an eruption resembling *urticaria*, accompanied by great swelling of the upper part of the body; but as the tincture was prescribed for a pain in the abdomen, we may, I think, fairly attribute the *urticaria* to gastric irritation arising from some article of food, many of which are notorious for its production.

In July, 1857, I was called in great haste to see a child, two and a-half years of age, who had swallowed some herbs which had been taken from the yard of the Montreal General Hospital. The father of the little girl described her as being "out of her senses," and very much excited. Having observed a number of plants of hyoscyamus growing in