

# CANADA

# MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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Clinical lecture delivered at the Montreal General Hospital by  
J. M. DRAKE, M. D., Professor of Clinical Medicine, McGill  
University.—*Fatal case of Rheumatic Delirium.*

Organic or functional disorders of the brain, occurring as a complication of acute rheumatism, are fortunately of somewhat rare occurrence, and indeed have only attracted much attention within a comparatively recent period. You are fortunate in having witnessed such a case, as it will serve to impress you with the possibility of its occurrence and the danger which it imports. We had in this case what appeared at first a somewhat severe (but by no means unusually so) case of acute articular rheumatism; several joints were affected—the knees, wrists, smaller joints of the fingers, elbows and shoulders. The pulse did not indicate any great disturbance of the vascular system. The sweating was moderate, the heat apparently natural, the tongue coated and somewhat yellow. The treatment adopted at first consisted in the administration of a saline purgative, painting the affected joints with Tr. Iodine: 10 grs., Dover powders at night, and this was followed by the use of an acid tonic mixture, with moderate but nutritious diet. Under this treatment the patient's condition for the first two or three days appeared to be somewhat improved. The pains were not so much complained of, and the tongue became less coated. This alleviation of the symptoms was, however, of very transient duration—he became more irritable, the pains in the joints returned, a slight murmur was detected at the base of the heart, and a few hours later he complained of a stitch in the side. He was then placed on full doses of Bicarb. Potas. every two hours, and blisters were applied in the neighborhood of the affected joints, and also to the sides of the chest. The Dover's powder at night was continued. He appeared much relieved by this mode of treatment. His pains almost left altogether. The Bicarb. Potas. affected his secretions so as to render them dis-