

Dominion Medical Monthly

EDITORS:

W. H. B. AIKINS, M.D.

W. B. NESBITT, B.A., M.D.,

WITH THE ACTIVE COLLABORATION OF

A. H. ATHERTON, M.D.

J. J. CASSIDY, M.D.

A. A. MACDONALD, M.D.

J. H. BURNS, M.D.

J. FERGUSON, M.D.

G. S. RYERSON, M.D.

A. H. FERGUSON, M.D., WINNIPEG, MAN.

VOL. II.]

TORONTO, ONT., FEBRUARY, 1894.

[No. 2.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

(No paper published or to be published elsewhere as original, will be accepted in this department.)

A NOTE ON THE DIAGNOSIS OF PEDICULOSIS CAPITIS.

BY DOUGLASS W. MONTGOMERY, M.D.

[Professor of Diseases of the Skin, Medical Departments of the University of California; Consulting Physician for Diseases of the Skin, and for Pathology, German Hospital.]

One good thing about the practice of medicine is its bathos. In the midst of the most learned and the most scientific considerations, the fool slides in, as in King Lear, and shows us that that part of nature must also receive attention. Sometimes we would gladly eliminate what we might choose to consider trifling, but the exigencies of practice will not allow it. For instance, in the diagnosis of that Proteus, syphilis, the common head louse may have his place. And we ought to be glad of these seeming incongruities, for they mean confusion to that patron Satan of book-worms who invented tables of differential diagnosis. Why, it is all tabulated, and one would think that one had only to bring the patient and the book together, and the thing would be done!

On Dec. 20th, 1893, a boy, thirteen years of age, came to the Clinic of the University of California, asking treatment for a papular eruption of the face and neck. The papules were small, pin-head sized and greater, and not much raised above the level of the surrounding skin. Many of the pimples had excoriated tops, and a few of them were pustulating. The rash was most thickly strewn over the forehead and around the mouth, straggling off more and more sparsely down the neck both in front and behind. On the scalp were a great number of excoriated papules, with a slight formation of pus. There was not much itching, and there was no other rash on the body. The