

# The Canadian Journal of Medicine and Surgery

A JOURNAL PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN THE INTERESTS OF  
MEDICINE AND SURGERY

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Vol. XXVI. TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1909. No. 3

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## *Original Contributions.*

### THE LATE GLASGOW, EDINBURGH AND BELFAST EPIDEMIC OF CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS

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IN discussing epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis under the above caption one does so in that this is one of the latest of the large epidemics of this disease; and from such careful observers as Robertson, of Leith, Chalmers, of Glasgow, and Robb, of Belfast, one should obtain the latest word.

This epidemic showed itself first in Glasgow in March of 1906, being observed chiefly in the poorer and more congested areas of the north and east wards.

In August, the Medical Health Board took action under the Infectious Diseases Act, making compulsory the notification of this malady. During the later months of 1906 a few deaths from cerebrospinal meningitis were reported in Edinburgh and Paisley. In January of 1907 the disease broke out in Belfast and the epidemic was so severe in type that Belfast followed the example of Glasgow in making the disease notifiable for one year. In the end of December, 1906, and January, 1907, cases were reported in Leith, which is the port of Edinburgh. These cases appeared in bunches, sometimes days together passing without a case reported, to again have 9 or 10 reported within 24 hours.

The severity of the epidemic may be estimated from the following table. For the data of this table I am indebted to the Department of Statistics in the office of the Registrar-General of Scotland.

Deaths from cerebrospinal meningitis in eight of the principal