

## Clinical Reports

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### CASES IN PRACTICE: (a) LIGHTNING STROKE; (b) THREE CASES OF NERVOUS DISEASE IN CHILDREN.\*

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*Mr. President and Gentlemen*,—Although the total number of deaths from lightning stroke is said to be very large it does not often fall to the lot of a practitioner to be called upon to treat a case. It may therefore be of some interest to you to hear a short account of a case which came under my observation.

One day during the excessively hot weather which we had during the latter part of last June a short thunder storm lasting only a few minutes blew up about noon. During the storm a young woman about twenty-five years of age was standing in the doorway of a small one-storied building with a board roof. A flash of lightning struck the roof and chimney directly over her head, knocking off several boards and setting fire to the roof. It then passed downwards at the side of the door-jamb, knocking off a splinter of wood, and then struck the young woman, throwing her forward. She was picked up in an insensible condition and carried into the house. I saw her a few minutes after the accident. She was lying on the lounge in a state of collapse. The face was pale and covered with perspiration and slightly drawn to one side. Her mouth was bleeding, one tooth having been knocked out, another one broken across and one or two others loosened. The injury to the mouth was no doubt caused by contact with a board, which was lying on the ground and which she struck as she fell forward. She appeared to be quite insensible to her surroundings but kept moaning loudly, as though in pain. There was a gurgling in the throat, as though she were unable to swallow. The appearance of the patient was rather startling and reminded one somewhat of that of a person to whom chloroform had been administered beyond the limits of safety. The respirations were however regular, although shallow, and the pulse fairly good. A slight odor of something burning could be noticed. I had the patient's clothing loosened so as to allow freer respiration, and had her removed to a bed, where she was able to lie in a less cramped position. I had taken with me some aromatic spirits of ammonia and gave her a few drops of this in a spoonful of water. At first

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\* Read before the meeting of the Huron Medical Society, held at Clinton, Sept. 6th, 1901.