

action is manifested ; but when this begins it quickly and steadily rises to a maximum. (2) It causes diminished diastolic relaxation ; but especially characteristic is the effect on the systole which is both more perfect and when complete more prolonged than usual. (3) The ventricle is always arrested in most pronounced (tetanic?) systole and then always looks very small and pale. It is inexcitable.

The action of drugs on such sensitive hearts as those of the Selechians was found correspondingly rapid. The action on the isolated heart was also more rapid than in the heart *in situ*, as was to be expected.

In many cases the first effect of a drug was to arrest the auricle proper, leaving the sinus extension comparatively unaffected.

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## OUR NORTH-WEST PRAIRIES, THEIR ORIGIN AND THEIR FORESTS.

BY A. T. DRUMMOND.

The origin of our North-West prairies may be traced to two causes, one long since removed, the other still operating. During the pre-glacial and glacial periods, the inequalities of the surface over vast tracts of the country in our North-West were filled up by clays and gravels, and more or less levelled. These clays were, to some extent, subsequently re-arranged under water, and at the same time new material, chiefly gravels, sands and sandy loam, was deposited. Then these extensive tracts were gradually upheaved above the level of the water or were left dry by the fall in the water through the diminution in the sources of supply, or by the greater facilities afforded for rapid drainage. There had been previous upheavals during the drift period, and there were traces of resulting vegetation. The second cause, then, or immediately previously, came into play, and consisted in the annual growth and decay, for long periods of time, of grasses, sedges and aquatic plants generally, over extensive areas in the shallower waters and along the shallow lake