## CANADA

## MEDICAL JOURNAL.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Case of Accidental Poisoning by some Acro-Narcotic Poison, probably Digitalis. By W. Marsden, M.D., President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada; Hon. Member Berkshire Med. Ins., and Lyceum of Nat. Hist.; Fellow Medico-Bot. Soc., London; Corresponding Fellow London Med. Soc.; Fellow Mont. Path. Soc.; Hon. Fellow Medico-Chirurgical Soc., New York, &c., &c., &c.

In reporting the following case, I cannot, in justice to myself, with-hold the expression of my surprise and regret, that a gentleman, so long and intimately connected with medical journalism as Dr. A. Hall, should have committed himself (as he has done in the February number of your journal,) by reviewing and criticising this case, on the garbled and imperfect testimony hastily furnished through the unprofessional channels of the daily papers, instead of waiting patiently to be enlightened by persons as capable as himself to do so, and better informed as to facts.

It is hardly necessary to say that the facts, as well as the conclusions of Dr. Hall are erroneous; as this will be seen by the evidence, which has been taken from the coroner's notes. As the evidence is voluminous, I have only extracted what has reference to the medical issue.

Certain portions of the following are italicised for facility of reference.

George Rankin, being sworn, says

A little way up St. John street (Mr. Scott and Mr. Murney being with him,) after turning Palace street, it was suggested by one of us that we should stop in the first drug store to take a tonic. We accordingly stopped at Mr. Sturton's. We went in, and the person here present, and who gives his name as Ainsworth Surton, was the person I saw in the shop. We asked him, I believe it was Mr. Scott, for a tonic or bitters. He told us he knew what we wanted; I do not know the exact words, but they implied this. Before we got the tonic we continued conversing while he was mixing the tonic or bitters, addressing him frequently, which, I can easily understand, might have confused him. Sturton

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