

THE  
**Canadian Journal of Medical Science.**

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN MEDICAL SCIENCE, CRITICISM, AND NEWS.

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**SUBSCRIPTION, \$3 PER ANNUM.**

All communications, remittances and Exchanges must be addressed to the Corresponding Editor, 171 Church St.

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1880.

**Selections: Medicine.**

**THE NEW YORK THERAPEUTICAL SOCIETY.**

OXALATE OF CERIUM AS A COUGH REMEDY.

Dr. Andrew H. Smith, Chairman of the Committee on Restoratives, reported cases illustrating the different degrees of success obtained in the use of oxalate of cerium in the treatment of cough. The report was based upon 84 cases furnished by the following observers: Drs. Hobart Cheesman, G. Bayles, H. W. Little for Dr. A. Hadden, F. A. Castle, C. E. Billington, Cameron, Purdy, and the Chairman. The sub-report made by Dr. Cheesman, of St. Luke's Hospital, contains a résumé of the literature of the subject, which the Chairman adopted as the introduction to the report, and it embraced references to Drs. Allport, La Roe, Morje, whose writings have already appeared in the **MEDICAL RECORD**, to Simpson, of Edinburgh, who regards the agent as a sedative and conservator of nerve-force, and to others.

Dr. Cheesman had used the remedy in hospital practice from July 1 to November 1, 1879, allowing it to take the place of all sedatives, including opium, and in the daily average of *phthisis* patients. It was uniformly administered in the form of a dry powder, and notes were taken in 69 trials. In 39, marked relief followed; in 19, the cough was moderately relieved; and in 11 no relief whatever was afforded. Of the 11 in which the remedy was entirely inefficient, 9 were in the third stage of the disease, and in 8 the Philadelphia preparation was used. In all the cases in which the cough was relieved, Merck's oxalate of cerium

was used. The drug was given, as a rule, two or three weeks, and often intermitted, for a time, to test its efficacy. Five grains were given on waking in the morning and at bedtime, as average doses. In some cases the dose was increased in size progressively, perhaps to 10 grains twice a day, with occasionally a dose of 5 grains in the middle of the day, and with benefit. Dr. George Bayles had furnished reports of three cases of *phthisis*, in which doses of 5 to 10 grains were given with marked benefit. He also furnished reports of two cases of chronic bronchitis, which were markedly benefited by taking *three* and five grains in the morning, and 6 and 10 grains in the evening respectively. Of cases of acute bronchitis, one was greatly benefited by the use of 3 grains in the morning and 6 in the evening. Several cases of acute bronchitis were not benefited at all by the use of the drug. He also furnished reports of cases of the cough of dentition treated by the use of oxalate of cerium, in which doses of 1 or two grains in the morning and 2 or 3 in the evening were given with marked benefit. In two cases of pertussis, in which the patient received respectively 5 and 3 grains in the morning and 10 and 6 in the evening, the effect was markedly beneficial. In several other cases no good effects were noticeable. He had also used the remedy in cases of spasmodic asthma in doses of 5 grains in the morning and 10 in the evening, with good results. He also furnished cases of other diseases in which the remedy was used with more or less of benefit. Dr. James R. Leaming had furnished the notes of 3 cases of *phthisis* in which he had used the remedy, and reported that it was, perhaps, the most valuable he had used, inasmuch as no unpleasant