## CANADA

## MEDICAL & SURGICAL JOURNAL.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

On the Pathology of Miner's Lung. By WM. OSLER M.D., Prof. Institutes of Medicine, McGill College.

(Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society)

Situated as we are, at a considerable distance from mining centres, it is only occasionally that cases of disease resulting from the inhalation of coal dust are brought before our notice. Having lately had such a case, I take this opportunity of laying it before you, together with a hitherto undescribed specimen from the Museum of the College, and also, other specimens illustrating the pathology of lung pigmentation. The man from whom I obtained the lungs of the first case I am about to describe was a powerful, well built Scotchman, 36 years of age, who died under my care in the small-pox department of the General Hospital of Variola maligna, after an illness of five days. Throughout the attack there were no symptoms referable to disease of the lungs; the breathing, it is true, was greatly accelerated, but not more than is usual in cases of hæmorrhagi smallpox.

Post-mortem examination, four hours after death—On opening the thorax the lungs appeared very full in volume, and instead of collapsing, projected slightly forward. The lower lobe of the right lung was adherent to the pleura in front and laterally by thin, delicate bands, apparently not of old date. Left lung and upper part of right free. No fluid in the pleural cavities. On removal from the chest both lungs presented over their whole surface a uniform, deep blue-black colour; so general was it, that not a trace of the

10