

ON INFANTILE SCURVY, WITH REPORT OF TWO CASES.*

BY A. D. BLACKADER, M.D.

Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and Lecturer on Diseases of Children
McGill University.

It is only recently that the symptoms of scurvy in children have received recognition by the profession in America. Scarcely a twelvemonth ago, Dr. Northrup, of New York, previous to the presentation of a paper on this subject before the New York Academy of Medicine, wrote letters to physicians in various parts of the States and elsewhere, asking their experience with infantile scurvy. Along with others I was asked to communicate what I could, either from my own personal experience, or from that of my *confrères*, in reference to the prevalence of this disease in Montreal. I had to reply that personally I had not up to that date recognized a case, and careful enquiries made from many connected with the larger of our English and French hospitals and children's institutions, received everywhere the same answer, that no cases had so far been recognized in Montreal.

This autumn, however, I had the satisfaction of seeing two fairly distinctive cases, and as the symptoms of scorbutus, unless looked for, are liable to be either unnoticed or mistaken and attributed to other causes, it seemed to me that a report of the cases, with a short review of the literature, might prove of some interest to this Society.

My first case was seen by me about the middle of last November. The infant, 12 months old, had at birth been a small but well-nourished infant, and for the first six weeks was nursed almost entirely at the breast. Then the supply failed, and the infant, under the supervision of the attending physician, was fed with a mixture of

* Read before the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society, Jan. 11th, 1895.