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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ART. XXX.—*Therapeutical Contributions.* By WM. WRIGHT, M.D., L.R.C.S.E., Professor of Materia Medica, McGill College; Physician to the Montreal General Hospital, &c.

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IODID OF POTASSIUM.—This agent has only been in use, as an anti-syphilitic, for little more than a quarter of a century; and has, consequently, not yet provoked so many words, for and against itself, as the proto-member of the class. Since, however, the statements of its first promulgators, Drs. R. Williams of London, and Wallace of Dublin, a sufficiency has been afforded us, wherefrom we may learn its real merits as a remedy, in the treatment of syphilis.

The recommendations it possesses to general favor are; that it does not necessitate the same regiminal precautions, which safety demands in the employment of mercury: the patient need not feel the same dread of danger from atmospherical vicissitudes, and may even pursue out-door avocations during inclement weather, without more than the ordinary risks that are incidental to every one, even in health, when similarly exposed. Although neither narcotic nor anæsthetic, it will often, under circumstances of great pain, speedily display anodyne powers of a high order, and perhaps as an expeditious assuager of the suffering, induced by morbid states of the periosteum, and fibrous textures, is not to be surpassed. And according to Mr. H. Mayo (*Treatise on Syphilis*) there is no medicine which, when it does good, produces amendment in constitutional syphilis so speedily as it. These advantages are, nevertheless, more specious than genuine; the first is not desirable, for the unrestricted freedom or indulgence it permits, if enjoyed, would be detrimental to the patient since the danger from cold, wet, &c., he already inherits from the disease. The second benefit, although it may not accrue so immediately from other anti-syphilitic