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## Original Communications.

### CASES OF POISONING BY CARBOLIC ACID—PARIS GREEN—BELLADONNA.\*

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It was my fortune to have the responsibility of three cases of poisoning devolve upon me within a year; and as such are comparatively rare, in the ordinary routine of a country practice, I thought a record of the symptoms actually observed, and the treatment used, might be interesting—if not instructive—to the members of this Association.

Case I.—Mrs. S., a widow lady, *æt.* 58 years, living three-fourths of a mile from my office, was on the 16th of November, 1881, preparing to retire for the night, at 10.30 p.m. She was troubled with rheumatism, and by mistake took a large dessert-spoonful of pure carbohc acid, instead of the remedy to which she usually resorted. She at once cried out, "I have taken the wrong medicine for it is burning my throat and my stomach dreadfully." Her daughter immediately discovered the mistake, and gave the alarm. I was speedily summoned to attend and was with the patient fifteen minutes after she had taken the acid. I found her in a partial stupor, talking somewhat deliriously, great muscular relaxation, weak thready pulse, cold clammy skin, pupils of eyes slightly contracted, breathing becoming of a stertorous character. The invasion of the symptoms had been very rapid. Previous to my arrival, the daughter had given an emetic of mustard without any effect. With some difficulty I aroused her sufficiently to drink four ounces of olive oil (all I had with me), when she recovered consciousness. I then prepared and administered an emetic of sulphate of zinc, which acted quickly and thoroughly; and soon left no doubt in our minds as

to the nature of the poison, as the atmosphere of the room was impregnated with the odor of carbohc acid. After the emesis had ceased, we gave her demulcent drinks, applied heat to the body, and had the satisfaction of leaving her in a couple of hours in a fair way to recovery. The posterior and central portion of tongue were hardened and corrugated by contact with the acid. The tongue and throat speedily healed; the stomach remained very irritable for a length of time.

Case II.—Mr. V., *æt.* 49 years, a respectable farmer living five miles from our village indulged frequently in the use of intoxicants. At 9 p.m. Sunday, September 3rd, 1882, when under the influence of liquor he mixed half a tea-cupful of the ordinary commercial Paris green—aceto-arsenite of copper—with water, and before any of the family were aware of his intention, swallowed the greater portion of the mixture. In an hour afterward I was with him. He was sensible, suffering very acutely at intervals from severe epigastric and abdominal pains, extreme pallor of countenance with anxious expression, cold clammy skin, feeble rapid pulse, made scarcely any complaint, in fact did not speak unless addressed. After each attack of pain he vomited freely, then complained of thirst. The vomited matter was bright green and there was considerable sediment of Paris green at the bottom of the vessel. The emesis began thirty minutes after taking the poison, partly no doubt from the action of an emetic of mustard his wife had induced him to take. Treatment consisted in giving good doses of dialyzed iron, large quantities of milk and eggs, keeping up free emesis until the green hue disappeared altogether. After that he became quite easy, but slightly stupid, pulse firmer, slower and skin warmer. Improvement lasted for more than an hour, when all the symptoms returned with much greater severity. His sufferings now were intense, great tenesmus, no diarrhoea, although bowels moved frequently, constant desire to void urine. He grew worse rapidly, and expired five hours after drinking the fatal potion.

Case III.—In each of the cases related, the kind of poison taken was known, in the one following, the toxic agent had to be decided from the symptoms manifested.

In the village of S—resided a Mr. T. and family, consisting of a wife and two daughters. Mr. T. was a delicate man, *æt.* 53 years, the elder

\* Read at the Ontario Medical Association, June 6th, 1883.