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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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ART. XLIV.—*Case of Sclerema—or induration of the subcutaneous cellular tissue.* By NORMAN BETHUNE, M.D., Toronto.

C. A., æt. 17, in her first pregnancy, was taken with labour pains at eight, p. m., December 28th, 1851. She stated that she had arrived at the full time, but noticed it as remarkable that she had never complained, as women are wont to do in her condition, and that she had experienced no sickness at stomach till three days before she was taken in labour. The mammary glands were large, but flaccid, and presented the areola of the full period of utero-gestation. The abdominal tumour was so small, that a stranger might not thereby have suspected her pregnancy. She had once or twice experienced falls upon the ice in the course of the present winter. She was delivered of a female child twenty-two hours from the accession of pains, nothing remarkable having in the meantime occurred. The child struck me as being the smallest I had ever seen at the full period. Its weight was barely over three pounds, and its length from crown to heel about fifteen inches. (The average weight at this period is seven pounds, and the length twenty inches.) In other respects the child was perfectly developed, the condition of the nails and hair, and the position of the umbilicus, being such as to indicate the complete term of uterine life.

The limbs were well clothed with muscle, but rendered almost wholly immovable from the extreme tightness of the skin, which was hard, resisting, and of a morbidly red colour. This condition of the integument was pretty general throughout the body, but was much less marked about the face. It was particularly tense in