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## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ART. XXXIII.—*Contribution to Clinical Medicine. Case of complete Suppression of Urine for Eleven Days.* By J. Crawford, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine, McGill College.

Suppression of the secretion of urine, described under the various terms of ischuria renalis, paruria inops, anuria, &c. &c., is an affection of somewhat rare occurrence, and is generally fatal in a very few days, which event, in the experience of Sir Henry Hallford, takes place in about four or five days, the general limit being from two to six days, but death has occurred within 24 hours; while there are cases on record of life being prolonged for weeks, or even years; nay, it has been stated that a man lived 77 years without having made any urine!! There, however, is a good deal of uncertainty as to the correctness of many of these statements, and the general opinion is, that cases of total suppression of urine are usually fatal in a few days; the injurious effects (as is supposed) of the retained urea, or the azote, on the brain, being indicated by drowsiness and fatal coma. In the majority of cases, there is a manifest effort of nature to relieve herself by a profuse vicarious, urinous smelling perspiration, or by watery discharge from the bowels and stomach. The quantity of urine in health or disease is, of course, very various, according to many influencing circumstances. We thus readily understand the cause of anuria in cholera, and cases occur where only a small quantity is discharged, which may eventually terminate favorably, but where the suppression is complete the disease generally terminates fatally by coma in a few days.

The most frequent cause of anuria is nephritis, and some have attributed it to the granular degeneration of the kidney; but Dr. Bright says it is a rare consequence of this morbid condition. The symptoms are usually so obscure, or slight, that the disease may have existed a long time before the patient's attention is sufficiently roused, to induce him to apply for advice; and he may overlook the gradual diminution