

CANADA MEDICAL JOURNAL.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

A Paper on Frost-Bite and its consequences, read before the New Brunswick Medical Society. BY WILLIAM BAYARD, M.D., Edin., President of the Society, &c., &c.

GENTLEMEN.—In compliance with the wish expressed at our last meeting, I shall proceed to give you a few observations upon "*Frost-bite and its consequences.*" It has been rightly suggested that papers read before this Society should be concise, and as a proof of my concurrence in the suggestion, I shall make my remarks as brief as possible. I do not pretend to have exhausted the subject. If I succeed in eliciting the opinions of my professional brethren respecting it, my object will be accomplished. Therefore, I trust that no gentleman will hesitate to express disapproval, or approval, as his judgment may dictate, of any statement put forth in this paper. Free and enlightened discussion should be our aim; without it, our meetings will produce small results.

I need not tell you that man possesses, in an eminent degree, the power of resisting the influence of cold, and that when the body, or a part of it, has been exposed to *severe and long-continued* cold, serious local and constitutional effects may, and oftentimes do, ensue.

The exact temperature required to produce such effects cannot readily be arrived at, so much depends upon the age, vigour, and habits of the person exposed. The very young, the aged, and those whose circulation is languid from any cause, being predisposed to the injurious consequences of it.

High wind increases the effect of cold upon the body, but generally the range of cold must be brought to 16° below freezing-point on Fahrenheit's scale, before actual freezing takes place.

The mean temperature of man in health is 98° of Fahrenheit. The thumbs are flexible and moveable at 96° , reduce the temperature a few