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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ART. XIII.—*Strychnine in Asiatic Cholera.* By W. FRASER, M.D.,
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cian to the Montreal General Hospital.

During the present epidemic of Asiatic Cholera, I have, from witnessing the frequent failure of most of the different plans of treatment hitherto recommended by writers for that disease, been led, on physiological grounds, to try the effect of minute doses of strychnine as a *general stimulant*, for sustaining the vital powers on the eve of their failure, and for restoring them to functional action when that is all but suspended by the supervention of collapse. By thus sustaining life till the virulence of the disease is expended, time is afforded for the trial of any plan of treatment to which the medical practitioner may be most partial, for correcting the abnormal condition of the blood and secretions, a condition resulting from the combined effect of the original cause of the disease and the discharges from the gastro intestinal mucous membrane. It will hence be perceived that strychnine is not suggested by me as a remedy for superseding the treatment hitherto pursued in cholera, but as a stimulant superior to any hitherto in use for sustaining life, in cases where life would, to all appearance, otherwise become extinct before treatment calculated to restore the blood and organic functions to their normal condition could be made available. Administered for fulfilling the object thus defined, in the mode which I will presently explain, strychnine in cholera has been attended with an amount of success in my hospital practice which far surpasses what I have met with from any other remedy, and justifies the *a priori* opinion, formed on physiological grounds, of its probable *modus operandi* in this fearfully rapid disease; hence I am induced to lay the result before the profession.

For the sake of explicitness, I will explain, 1st, The indications which have guided me in the administration of strychnine; 2dly, The dose