

THE
CANADA LANCET,
A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SCIENCE.

VOL. III.

NOVEMBER, 1870.

No. 3.

Original Communications.

CAPSICUM IN DELIRIUM TREMENS.

Having noticed the use of capsicum in delirium tremens, I resolved to try it in cases just a stage short of actual delirium. The more so because the few cases, occurring in my practice, treated in the usual routine method, proved quite unsatisfactory. A constant prudential fear of the toxic effects of large doses of opiates on the one hand, and excessive prostration by depressants on the other, provoked perhaps over-cautiousness, and therefore the critical sleep appeared always too tardy in its approach, giving great anxiety to myself, the patient, and his friends. The two cases here recorded speak for themselves.

Mr. S., age 25, had been on a debauch for several days. I saw him on the 4th inst; he had not slept for a couple of nights; headache, watchfulness, fear, tremors, eyes restless, pulso rapid, indeed a victim of pity. I ordered him *R capsici grs. xl., saponis q. s. misci; divide in pill viij.* Take four immediately, and repeat the dose in four hours, unless sleep interrones. Next morning he went on his way rejoicing; he was a traveller.

CASE 2.—J. C., aged about 35, had been drinking for three weeks in succession, until the brain became emphatically intoxicated; he had not slept for many-six hours, at which time