

CANADA

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A CASE OF AMMONIA POISONING.

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R. W., aged 54 years, had been drinking heavily for two weeks, and on Sunday evening, Feb. 5th, 1882, he took, by mistake, a draught of strong liquor ammoniæ. He had left the tea-table and gone up-stairs, when, in a few minutes, he returned very much agitated, and stated to his brother that he had, by mistake, swallowed strong liquor ammoniæ instead of a bromide of potassium mixture which he had been in the habit of taking. He had, in the dark, taken the wrong bottle, and, raising it to his lips, swallowed the ammonia before he was aware of the difference. The two bottles were similar in size and shape, and were standing side by side on a shelf. The liquor ammoniæ had been put into an ordinary medicine bottle, on which the original label still remained, and there were no marks on the bottle by which it could be distinguished from any other ordinary medicine bottle. When he returned to the dining-room and told his brother that he had taken ammonia, he fell insensible on the floor. His brother hastened to help him, and managed to make him swallow some milk with considerable difficulty. Previous to the accident, R. W. had taken two plates of strong soup.

Drs. Ross and Proulx were summoned, and after free emesis he appeared rather better. The vomited matter smelt very strongly of ammonia, and contained some blood. The voice was husky, but there was no dyspnœa. I saw him at 10 P.M., about three hours after the accident. He was then very weak; pulse