

CANADA

MEDICAL & SURGICAL JOURNAL

JANUARY, 1882.

Original Communications.

ON ERYSIPELAS.

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(Read before the Ottawa Medico-Chirurgical Society.)

We are fortunate, I think, in having chosen erysipelas as a subject for discussion, because it is a disease with which we all ought to be intimately acquainted. It crosses us at times, no matter what branch of the profession we are engaged in—as physicians, surgeons, or obstetricians,—and though, under these altered circumstances, it may wear different aspects, yet we have to deal with one and the same poison.

To the physician, it constantly assumes a severe character, either by its being prolonged from day to day, perhaps with a discharge and an elevated temperature, thus tending to exhaust the patient; or frequent relapses may bring about a similar result; or, again, its frequent repetition in the same patient leaves both himself and his physician in a state of uncertainty as to its cause, its prevention, and its consequences.

To the surgeon, it is a continual source of anxiety, often marring the effects of an otherwise successful operation, always an interference with nature's efforts at repair, and occasionally placing a patient in jeopardy who has sought the surgeon's aid to rid him of perhaps some slight disfigurement or deformity. Following an operation, it lends a totally different complexion to the case at once, and though it may not actually cause death, yet it seriously impairs the result, as well as retards recovery.