

THE Canadian Journal of Medical Science.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCE, CRITICISM, AND NEWS.

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SUBSCRIPTION, \$3 PER ANNUM.

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TORONTO, JULY, 1882.

Original Communications.

NOTES ON THERAPEUTICS.

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THE ERUPTIONS CAUSED BY QUININE.

Some months ago Van Harlingen published, in the *Archives of Dermatology*, an elaborate account of all the medicinal eruptions. Five distinct effects in the skin are produced by quinine and the cinchona compounds. 1. Erythematous, or scarlatiniform eruption. 2. Papular. 3. Urticaria. 4. Purpuric. 5. Irritation of the skin of the genitals. Of these the erythema seems to be the one most frequently met with, and from several late articles upon this subject, it may be inferred that this phenomenon depends more upon idiosyncrasy of the patient than upon the large dose of the drug. The following case resembles an ordinary attack of scarlatina. Prof. Kobner, Berlin (*Klinisch Wochenschrift*)* prescribed quinine for a man who was suffering from bronchitis. In two hours he had a violent rigor, a feeling of suffocation, severe headache, nausea, and vomiting. Two hours later another short rigor, followed by a burning sensation, at first in the head and then all over the body. These phenomena occurred about 8 p.m. The next morning there was fever, an itching eruption over the whole body, difficulty of swallowing, and dryness of the throat. The eruption was of a deep red tint, disappearing momentarily on pressure. Face swollen, conjunctiva injected,

nasal mucous membrane dry. There were large papules upon the thighs surrounded by healthy skin. Pulse 108, temperature of skin elevated, respiration calm, tongue slightly tremulous, moist, posterior walls of the pharynx very red and injected, rest of the mouth normal. This certainly looked like scarlatina, but previously to this time the patient had had two similar attacks as the result of taking quinine. The eruption was considered by the physicians attending as scarlatina, and was each time followed by desquamation.

Dr. Gilliam, in the same journal, relates how he prescribed quinine, in three or four grain doses, for a boy about 15 years old. In a few hours the patient was found with intense congestion of the conjunctiva, œdema of the face and limbs, and a bright erythematous eruption of the whole surface of the body, and complaining of terrible burning and itching. Subsequently the administration of quinine on two occasions produced the same symptoms.

CORYZA.

Dr. N. Ffalliott, writing to the *British Medical Journal* states, that coryza, or nasal catarrh, may be cured in a few hours if taken at the onset, or at most twelve hours afterwards, by the inhalation of a spray of sulphate of quinine. The solution used may be made by dissolving four grains of quinine in an ounce of water, with just sufficient dilute sulphuric acid to dissolve it, and scenting with any agreeable perfume. A hand-ball spray-producer is used, and the quinine should be tasted in the back of the mouth. Apart from the possibility of quinine being antiseptic and destroying the germs which may give rise to this condition, supposing the

*The Monthly Review of Medicine and Pharmacy, March, 1882.