

CANADA MEDICAL RECORD

NOVEMBER, 1897.

Original Communications.

ELEPHANTIASIS.

By J. M. ROHLER, M.D., British Guiana.

This affection is somewhat common in Eastern intertropical regions.

In South America and the West Indies I have observed a great many instances, the lymphangiomatous thickening occurring chiefly in the arms, lips, penis, scrotum, and in the labium in females.

In the present instance the patient was a man of 56 years of age, a Portuguese. He was admitted to my private hospital on the 4th day of February, 1895, with the scrotal variety of lymphangioma, commonly called elephantiasis arabum. He stated that about twelve years before he felt slight pains in the left groin, extending to the testicle, and of an intermittent character. He attributed his trouble to his occupation; he was a baker, and exposed to rapid changes of heat and cold. He consulted several physicians and surgeons, but failed to get relieved. A few months after the scrotum began to swell. It gradually increased in size, and in three years the growth had become very uncomfortable. It developed still further until the patient was unable to move about, and for six years he has been completely laid aside.

On admission to the Hospital, a saline purge was given, and the next morning a thorough examination was made. The tumour hung downwards to about ten inches below the knees.

It was shaved, washed, and sterilized with a 1 to 1000 hydrarg perchlor. solution.