

# THE CANADIAN PRACTITIONER

FORMERLY "THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCE."

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TORONTO, MAY, 1884.

## Original Communications.

### A PECULIAR CASE OF SUPPURATIVE DISEASE.

J. E. GRAHAM, M. D.

The following case presents features which differ from those of any ordinary disease in our classification; and on that account it is worthy of special attention. Mrs. S., æt. 44, married, came under my observation January, 1882. She is the mother of six living children who are all in a fair state of health. Three have died, one a premature birth, a second of *tabes mesenterica* when three years of age, and a third of *cholera infantum*. Patient was strong and healthy up to eight years ago. She first noticed a pain in the side which her physician said proceeded from the spine. During that summer she had constant flooding. In September an abortion took place. From this she recovered and remained well for a year. She then gave birth to another child, making a good recovery after her confinement. In the following March, 1876, she suffered from congestion of the lungs from which she did not quickly rally. She then noticed swellings on each side of the neck. In a few weeks they were lanced and discharged a large quantity of pus. The discharge continued throughout the whole summer. In the autumn they healed up entirely, and she was free from disease during the winter. In June of the following year, 1877, another swelling appeared on the neck; it was superficial and rapidly disappeared. In

January of 1878, an abscess formed quite rapidly under the left breast. In three or four weeks it was lanced and it healed up rapidly. The next appearance of trouble was in February, 1880, four or five months after the birth of the youngest child. Abscesses then commenced to form in the neck and in the subcutaneous connective tissue over the left breast. The latter was a very large one, eight ounces of pus having been evacuated from it at one time. The discharge continued for nearly a year.

During the past year, *i. e.*, 1881, the old scars in the neck have opened, and many new abscesses have formed in that region as well as in the arms and hands. They have commenced either in the lymphatic glands or in the connective tissue. They began first as hard tumours which would soften slowly when pus was formed of a yellow and "laudable" appearance.

*Family History.*—Her father died of consumption when he was forty years of age. Her mother died after confinement; she does not know the exact cause. Patient has five brothers and one sister all healthy. Consumption existed in her father's family, as his brother also died of it. As previously stated patient has six children, two born after the commencement of the present disease. These two are not strong but they do not suffer from any particular disease.

*Present Condition.*—The patient is a small and delicate looking woman, somewhat emaciated and scarcely able to walk.