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PURULENT PLEURISIES.*

By J. E. GRAHAM, M.D., M.R.C.P., LOND.,
Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto.

PHYSICIANS who have seen many cases of purulent pleurisy, and who have observed closely the course of the disease in each case, will no doubt be willing to testify to the fact of the great variety of the affection; variety as to origin, as to the nature of the contents, and as to the duration of the disease.

Sometimes the symptoms at first presented are those of an ordinary pleurisy, which afterwards develops into an empyema. Then, again, a case may begin as a pneumonia, exhibiting all the signs and symptoms of that disease, and terminate as an empyema. The pleural exudate varies much in character in different cases. It is sometimes sero-purulent, and sometimes uniformly purulent. Often the upper portion is serous, and lower portion purulent. In a number of cases, again, the contents become fetid.

The course and duration of the disease also present great differences; some cases recover after a single aspiration, while in others the discharge

* Read at the Toronto Medical Society, in opening the discussion on Purulent Pleurisies.