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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ART. LXII.—*Observations on penetrating Wounds of Large Joints.*
By JOHN JARRON, Surgeon, Dunnville.

There are few axioms in Surgery so generally admitted as the dangerous consequences liable to follow operations in which the cavities of the large joints are laid open, or otherwise trifling incised wounds, which divide their capsules and allow the synovial fluid to escape. It is not my intention to enquire into the cause of these serious consequences, whether they are the result of even a slight injury to a peculiarly irritable membrane, or of the admission of the atmospheric air into a shut sack on which it acts as a foreign body, exciting the most acute inflammation and its results on tissues and in structures where these are most destructive; the facts are so generally admitted, though medical literature, and the observations of every practical surgeon, afford exceptions in which extensive openings into large joints occur without serious results, that the course of the inflammation and its effects, both on the structure of the joint and on the general constitution are most important, and the treatment thereof worthy of attentive consideration.

In Rankin's abstract of the Medical Sciences, No. 14, is a notice of a paper by Mr. Gay, "on the treatment of diseased joints by free incisions," on which the editor makes the following observations. "Mr. Gay has attempted, in our opinion, a very salutary reform in the method of treating diseased joints, in a valuable paper read before the Medical Society. Mr. Gay commences his paper by observing, that to the present time there was no department of Surgery in which the powers of art have been so comparatively feeble as when applied to the relief of those diseases of the joints which, from their results, might be termed