

The Canadian Practitioner and Review.

VOL. XXVI.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1901.

NO. 4.

Original Communications.

A CASE OF TIC.*

By R. D. RUDOLF, M.D., EDIN., M.R.C.P., LOND.

Lecturer in Medicine and Clinical Medicine in Toronto University.

The term Tic means a "jerk" or "twitch," and has been applied to so many different conditions of twitchings that the whole nomenclature of the various forms of the trouble is chaotic. To the French school we owe the credit of producing some order out of this chaos. They group all the tics into four classes, and these classes have been adopted by Dr. Risien Russell in Clifford Allbutt's "System of Medicine" in his admirable summary of the whole subject, of which I have made free use in the following notes. These classes are as follows:

1. Simple Tic, which includes all cases characterized by tic-like movements unaccompanied by psychical manifestations. The case to be presently noted belongs to this class. The condition of habit spasm—in which, as a result of imitation or of irritation, some twitching occurs and persists involuntarily after the cause has ceased—clearly comes under this first heading. One may give as an example of this the blinking of the eyelids, which has commenced during an attack of conjunctivitis and persists for years after the irritation has ceased.

2. Convulsive Tic ("Maladie des Tics convulsifs"), in which, in addition to the motor disturbances, explosive utterances and imperative ideas appear. Russell considers that the condition called the "Jumping Disease of Maine" is of this nature.

3. Co-ordinated Tics.—Here, instead of the ordinary jerking or twitching which characterizes the first two classes, we have

*Read before the Toronto Clinical Society, March 6th, 1901.