## CANADA

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## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Contraction of both Knee Joints, the result of abscesses associated with non-congenital talipes equinus (right foot). By J. A. GRANT, M.D., F.R.C.S., Edin. Read before the Canadian Medical Association.

Césaire Ethier, aged 13 years, of healthy parentage, and no indications of morbid diathesis in any of the family. The history of this case, as far as I have been able to ascertain from the mother, usually the most accurate recorder of facts under such circumstances, is as follows. The boy, from his second to fifth year, walked as well as any healthy child of the same age, until attacked by scarlet fever, followed by inflammation of the ankle. knee and elbow joints, developing the tertiary action of the poison to the greatest intensity in both the knee joints, this complication becoming the chief feature of the case. Extensive abscesses formed around the knee joints, followed by periostitis and exfoliation of several small pieces of bone. For a period extending over eighteen months, there were several fistulous openings, and the copious discharge influenced very materially the boy's general health. At the termination of the second year, all the openings closed, there being a marked change for the better as to constitutional symptoms, but the boy remained crippled so as to be utterly unfit for any avocation in life, and presented the following almost unique condition. Both legs flexed, the right to its fullest extent. the posterior part of leg being in close proximity to the posterior aspect of the thigh, and fixed firmly by an extensive fibrous band, extending like a brace between the leg and thigh, and becoming well defined, on the slightest effort to extend the leg. By ordinary exfension, the space between the leg and thigh, on right side, was increased only to a moderate degree, and these parts when comressed together, would not more than equal the size of an ordiary leg of a child of the same age.

The left leg was flexed upon the thigh, to an angle of 45°, but in that position, and presenting longitudinally through the