

CANADA

MEDICAL RECORD

VOL. XXIV.

MAY, 1896.

No. 8.

Original Communications.

COMPARATIVE PATHOLOGY.

By ANDREW MACPHAIL, B.A., M.D., C.M., M.R.C.S., Eng., L.R.C.P., Lond.

Professor of Pathology, University of Bishop's College.

It is no longer possible even to survey the field of medicine; it is difficult to deal adequately with one portion of it. Even men whose chief business is pathology are compelled to restrict themselves to some one part of the subject. And human pathology is not all pathology; the whole animal creation is groaning and travailing in the pain of disease, and many of these diseased conditions still await investigation. But this is not all. The work will be incomplete until the diseases of plant life are also worked out and brought into a proper relation with those which are incident to the more complex forms of life.

In any proper course in physiology the student is first taught the elements of physiologic processes in plants. There he sees the cell in its simplest form, and obtains a primary notion of what protoplasm really is and what it can effect in virtue of its own inherent life. He is then in a position to work his way up to a knowledge of the in-