

CANADA
MEDICAL & SURGICAL JOURNAL

MARCH, 1879.

Original Communications.

COHNHEIM'S THEORY OF TUMORS.

Translated and condensed from Vol. I. of his *Vorlesungen Ueber
allgemeine Pathologie* (Lectures upon General Pathology).

By DR. OSLER.

Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal as an appendix to a report
of two cases of rare Kidney Tumors—Striped-Muscle Sarcoma, and
Spindle-called Adeno-Sarcoma.

The nutrition disturbances which the organs and tissues of the body can undergo—up to the limit of actual necrosis—may be arranged in three groups. In the first the organ or tissues become smaller, but are otherwise unchanged (simple atrophy). In the second, there is a change in the chemical constitution of the part; fat exists, for example, where there should be albumen only, lime salts are in excess, or substances may occur such as amyloid, which normally are not found in the organism. In the third, the physiological proportion of individual organs is exceeded, or certain structures exist which do not conform to the normal anatomy. In this are classed the pathological regenerations, the hypertrophies, and the tumours. In these processes there is a change in the physiological balance between waste and nutrition in favor of the latter, by which means alone a definite increase of tissue could take place.