

CANADA

MEDICAL & SURGICAL JOURNAL

JUNE, 1882.

Original Communications.

REMARKS ON OPTIC NEURITIS.

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(Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal.)

It is not my intention to go deeply into the subject of optic neuritis; in fact it would be trespassing too much on the patience and good nature of this Society were I to attempt any such exploit on the present occasion. Nevertheless, having seen in the past six years quite a considerable number of cases in which optic neuritis formed a prominent symptom of other morbid conditions, I will try and make use of them in such a way as to illustrate some of the points of interest in this complicated and difficult chapter in neural pathology. I have only to mention the theories that have been advanced in explanation of optic neuritis, to justify the expressions I have made use of in speaking of the subject as a difficult one, and to show furthermore that there is still much to be learned before we can say our knowledge of this affection is satisfactory and complete.

These theories are four in number. They all, however, start on the common basis, viz. : that the affection is caused in some way by, and is an expression of an abnormally increased intracranial pressure, leaving out of the question, of course, the comparatively rare instances in which the condition is due to disease situated on the peripheral side of the optic chiasm.