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Original Communications.

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**Knee-Jerk in the Diagnosis of Diseases of the  
Spinal Cord.\***

BY D. C. MEYER, M.D., TORONTO.

IN choosing the subject of the present paper I did so with considerable hesitation, fearing that I should necessarily repeat many facts with which you were already familiar. The importance of the knee-jerk in the diagnosis of diseases of the spinal cord and brain, together with the fact that a diagram of these parts would explain its action more clearly than a verbal discussion, induced me, however, to offer a few remarks about it. The knee-jerk, as you are all aware, was first studied by Erb and Westphal, the former giving it the name of patellar tendon reflex, and the latter the knee phenomenon. Erb and many others believed that the cause of the knee-jerk was a reflex, beginning in the nerves of the tendon, a supposition which was supported by the discovery of nerves in the tendon, and this view was the accepted one for some time. Later, however, it was disproved

\* Read at Meeting of Toronto Medical Society.