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Original Contributions.

SUBACROMIAL BURSTITIS AS A CAUSE OF STIFF AND PAINFUL SHOULDERS*

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THE surgeon's advice is frequently sought by patients who complain of pain and stiffness in the shoulder joint, yet it is safe to say that the true nature of the lesion from which most of these patients suffer is usually unrecognized, and such vague diagnostic names as rheumatism, fibrous ankylosis, peri-arthritis, contusion, brachial neuritis and circumflex paralysis are applied to the condition in ignorance of the fact that in the vast majority of instances the symptoms are the result of inflammation of the subacromial bursa.

Under the name of peri-arthritis, Duplay in 1872 and Putnam in 1882 described the clinical condition in certain examples of this class of cases very accurately; Douglas Graham in 1884 gave a summary of the pathology of peri-arthritis of the shoulder joint; and in 1902 Kuster published an important paper on subacromial bursitis; but it is to E. A. Codman, of Boston, who worked out the subject independently in ignorance of the earlier paper by Kuster, that we are indebted for the only really satisfactory contribution to this subject, and his two papers in 1906 and 1908 are most enlightening regarding a frequent but hitherto obscure class of cases. It was the writer's good fortune to be present at a clinical demonstration before the American Orthopedic Association given by Dr. Codman in Boston in 1906, just before he published his first paper, and also in June of the present year at another demonstration be-

*Read at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Medical Association at Winnipeg, August 25, 1909.