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Original Communications.

THE MECHANICAL TREATMENT OF TUBERCULAR DISEASES OF THE KNEE.*

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THE knee-joint is the largest joint in the body, and is also one of the most exposed. Its synovial membrane not only covers a large amount of joint surface, but is almost directly subcutaneous throughout a considerable portion of its extent. It has not only a true hinge-joint motion, but also a gliding movement, in the course of which the articular surface of the tibia comes into contact with the posterior aspect of the condyles of the femur, in which position of flexion the outer and inner hamstring muscles, drawing nearly in the line of the axis of the femur, are pulling to a greater or less degree in a line which is at right angles to the axis of the tibia, and thus act at a great mechanical advantage in the production of subluxation, which is so common in chronic disease of this joint.

*Read before the Ontario Medical Association, June, 1893.