

SURGICAL NOTES.

EXCISION OF ELBOW.

THE patient T—, aet 39, had been suffering from what he supposed was rheumatism of the elbow for some months. The condition not improving he consulted Dr. J. A. McBroom, of Gananoque, who diagnosed tuberculosis of the elbow joint, and finding a thorough course of treatment made no impression on the disease, advised operative interference. When seen by me, about the middle of October last, the patient, a well developed man with t: 99½, pulse: 80, stated there had been no severe pain in his arm, but it was entirely useless, for, though fairly free from pain when at rest, any movement caused suffering. The arm presented the fusiform appearance characteristic of a tuberculous elbow, and, an examination by means of the X Rays showed that the bones forming the joint were diseased. Iodoformized glycerine was injected into both joint and bones a number of times, but the fluoroscope showed no improvement, and on November 10th I excised the joint. The incision was the straight posterior of Park four inches long—two above and the same below the line of articulation immediately down to the bones and through the tendon of triceps. As much as possible of the periosteum with the insertion of the triceps was peeled off with an elevator from the olecranon and by the same means the internal condyle was cleared, care being taken to avoid the ulnar nerve. The posterior interosseous was similarly dealt with in denuding the external condyle and head of radius. The forearm was strongly flexed and placed palm downwards on the table on the same side of patient's head and was firmly held there by an assistant. Steadying the end of the humeros with lion-jawed forceps the diseased portion of that bone was removed and then the ends of radius and ulna. The disease was so extensive in the radius that it had to be divided close down to the insertion of the biceps. A large cavity containing the characteristic cheesy material and extending in front of the radius and below the middle of that bone was cleaned