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Original Communications.

Lachrymal Disease.

BY J. H. M'CASSY, M.A., M.D. (TOR.), DAYTON, O.

DACRYOCYSTITIS is perhaps the most common form of lachrymal disease. It is essentially an inflammation of the lachrymal sac, generally accompanied by catarrhal inflammation of the lachrymal duct.

Cause.—About fifty per cent. of the cases of lachrymal disease is due to hypertrophy of the nasal mucous membrane, especially that of the inferior turbinated body, the exit of the tear duct lying in the inferior meatus. Catarrhal or tracheomatous disease of the conjunctiva is a close second in the causation of this disease. Then we have a local periostitis at the nasal outlet of the canal as a frequent starting point. The affections that may cause this trouble often disappear spontaneously, leaving no apparent cause of the lachrymal disease.

Pathology.—The stricture usually consists of inflammatory thickening of the mucous membrane of the lachrymal canal, or in the more obstinate cases a cicatricial sclerosis of the connective tissue wall will usually be found. In attempting to pass a probe difficulty will be encountered (1) Either in the canaliculus; (2) At the