

CANADA

# MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Lectures on the Diseases of the Eye recently delivered before the Ophthalmic Class of the Toronto School of Medicine.* By A. M. ROSEBRUGH, M.D.

(Continued from page 554.)

LECTURE II. GLAUCOMA,\* AND GLAUCOMATOUS DISEASES, AND THEIR TREATMENT BY IRIDECTOMY.

We are indebted to Prof. Alfred Von Graefe, of Berlin, not only for the modern theory of glaucoma, but also for presenting the means of curing this hitherto incurable disease. He discovered, by means of the ophthalmoscope, that peculiar condition of the optic nerve entrance called *excavation* or *cupping*; and also showed that in cases of glaucoma, there exists an arterial pulsation in the optic nerve. From his extensive clinical experience, he was soon able to prove that these ophthalmoscopic appearances, and all the other symptoms of glaucoma, are closely connected with the tension of the globe, which inwardly accompanies glaucomatous diseases. Recognizing the abnormal hardness of the eye as the essential element in the disease, he sought for means of permanent relief. He had tried in vain the usual remedies, such as mercurials, anti-phlogistics, diuretics, diaphoretics, &c. He also tried tapping the anterior chamber, methodically repeated, but with only temporary benefit.

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\* When the eye of an aged person becomes glaucomatous, there may often be seen in the advanced stage of the disease, a green reflection from the interior of the eye; this green reflection was formerly considered a pathognomonic symptom of glaucoma, the name *glaucoma* is from γλαυκός—sea-green.