TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF SURGERY.

Stated Meeting, March 2, 1908.

The President, DR. WILLIAM J. TAYLOR, in the Chair.

CARIES SICCA.

DR. MORRIS B. MILLER presented a woman, aged 22 years, whose personal history was without interest until five years ago when she suffered from a prolonged and severe attack of typhoid fever complicated with pneumonia. Approximately two months after she got perfectly well her arm became weak at the shoulder and remained that way until something over a year ago when within a few weeks she lost entirely the power to raise it at the shoulder and it commenced to pain. The muscles became shrunk and the fixation grew pronounced over a period of three or four months. From the first she has had severe pains resembling neuralgia but not responding to any form of treatment. These are mainly of the area immediately surrounding the joint, but some pain is referred down the arm. Any effort to move the firmly ankylosed shoulder-joint causes considerable suffering. The clinical phenomena are clearly those of caries sicca. There is no pulmonary lesion perceptible.

Dr. Miller said he believed this condition must occur more frequently than one would gather from the literature, and he thinks it may possibly be that this condition is frequently diagnosed as arthritis. He would like to have raised the question whether, in the light of the disability his patient presented, and particularly the neuralgic pain of which she complained, an excision would be warranted and whether it would result in an improved condition.