

CANADA

MEDICAL & SURGICAL JOURNAL

DECEMBER, 1883.

Original Communications.

EXCISION OF PORTIONS OF THE INTESTINE.

By JAMES BELL, M.D.,

Medical Superintendent of the Montreal General Hospital.

(Read before the Canada Medical Association, at Kingston, September, 1883.)

The groundwork of my paper consists of the reports of 14 cases of experimental resections of the intestine in dogs. I was led to make this series of experiments by the observation during the past few years of a number of cases of intussusception, hernial and other strangulations, stricture, ulcer, and the various neoplasms which affect the intestinal canal, which were either subjected to equally severe, but less satisfactory, treatment, or abandoned to die as beyond the reach of surgical aid. When I say "equally severe, but less satisfactory treatment," I refer, of course, to the orthodox treatment of intussusception by inflation or even by abdominal section, and endeavoring to replace the inverted bowel; and the production of an artificial anus in hernia when the bowel had sloughed. Emboldened by the recent successes in the various branches of abdominal surgery, I reasoned that, under ordinary circumstances, almost any portion of the intestinal tract—certainly any portion of the small intestine—should be removable with the greatest ease, and if the ends could be kept in close apposition for a sufficient length of time, union should occur. I therefore proceeded to operate upon a number of dogs—although I was warned by veterinary surgeons that the dog was considered by them to be specially susceptible to peritonitis—and I consider the results most satisfactory. The follow-