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EXTIRPATION OF THE PROSTATE—FREYER'S METHOD.

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My interest in this operation was aroused by following the rather acrimonious correspondence that ensued upon the publication of Mr. Freyer's initial series of cases in the *British Medical Journal* of June 20th, 1901. This correspondence served to show the wide diversity of opinion that exists as to the most suitable operation for chronic prostatic enlargement, some advocating the suprapubic method, others the perineal, and others still the urethral. Even by each of these different routes a variety of operations have been proposed, and whilst this multiplicity of methods may be taken as an index of the earnest efforts made by surgeons to arrive at some safe and suitable operation, it nevertheless emphasizes the unsettled state of the surgical mind. The remarkable success achieved by Mr. Freyer in his operation of total extirpation suprapubically gives ground for the hope that at last a safe and comparatively easy operation has been evolved for this most distressing and widespread malady. This success was so pronounced, and the relief obtained so marked, that I was induced to try by his method to give ease to a patient of mine whose life for a year past had been made miserable by all the evils of catheterism.

This patient was a gentleman, aged 69, who for three years had been suffering from symptoms of enlarged prostate, namely, increased frequency of micturition, so that finally he could retain urine for only one hour during the day and about half an hour at night, difficulty in starting the stream, intermittency of the flow, dribbling and pain above the pubes. At