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Original Communications.

CLINICAL LECTURE ON HÆMORRHOIDS.

Delivered at the Montreal Dispensary.

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Professor of Botany, Bishop's College, Medical Faculty.

GENTLEMEN,—Owing to the enormous increase in the number of patients attending this institution, I deem it my duty to make some use of such a vast amount of material for your benefit, by calling your attention by means of a series of short clinical lectures to certain classes of cases which we have frequent opportunities of observing here, and which in a few years from now, when you are immersed in private practice, you will be most frequently called to attend, without perhaps having the time to devote to their study. I claim for these every-day diseases a fair share of your attention, for it is they and not the case of extreme rarity which will form the bulk of your practice and the foundation of your reputation.

The subject I have chosen for my first lecture is Hæmorrhoids, or in Anglo-Saxon, piles, and at the very outset let me put you on your guard against a common source of error. Patients frequently make mistakes as to the diagnosis of their complaint, even when the malady is situated in a locality which they can readily observe. Still more is this the case when, as with piles, the disease is situated in a part which it is difficult to see and examine. You will see patients coming here suffering from every different affection the rectum and anus are heir to, and yet, they will nearly all tell you, without any

hesitation, that they are troubled with piles, and many of them will deem it an unnecessary liberty we are taking, when we ask them to let us see the piles. The personal and thorough examination of every case of the kind is a most necessary precaution as will be shown by recalling the following case which many of you may remember:—Pete McN., a e. 19, exceeding pale and weak in appearance, came here a few months ago complaining of bleeding pilest. He said whenever he had a motion which was a somewhat rare occurrence, as his bowels were always confined, the piles would come down and bleed profusely, sometimes to the extent of nearly a pint. When they came down he could feel a round lump, which was not very painful, but bled freely. We immediately examined his anus, but found nothing abnormal; neither did the use of the rectal speculum reveal any appearance of internal piles. But on removing the speculum I introduced my finger, and at once detected a pear-shaped polypus about the size of a cherry hanging by a long pedicle from the wall of the rectum about two inches up. I pulled this highly vascular tumor down, placed a ligature around the pedicle, and returned it to the rectum, whence it was passed a few days later. He has had no bleeding since, and having rapidly regained his strength, has returned to his occupation, which he had been obliged to relinquish for over a year.

John R., aet 22, came a few weeks ago complaining of piles, which he diagnosed as of the itching variety. On examining him, however, we could find no trace of piles, but we did find a number of little white squirming worms about half an inch long, and looking like bits of thread endowed with