

# The Canadian Journal of Medicine and Surgery

A JOURNAL PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN THE INTEREST OF  
MEDICINE AND SURGERY

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VOL. II.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1897.

No. 3.

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## Original Contributions.

Certainly it is excellent discipline for an author to feel that he must say all he has to say in the fewest possible words, or his reader is sure to skip them; and in the plainest possible words, or his reader will certainly misunderstand them. Generally, also, a downright fact may be told in a plain way; and we want downright facts at present more than anything else.—RUSKIN.

### ADDRESS IN SURGERY.\*

BY W. MITCHELL BANKS, M.D. EDIN.

Fellow and Member of Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; Surgeon to the Liverpool Royal Infirmary; Emeritus Professor of Anatomy, University College, Liverpool.

#### THE SURGEON OF OLD IN WAR.

I AM indeed greatly honored by having to deliver to you to-day an address in Surgery. Fortunately for me the title is a wide one, and I shall take advantage of that fact to diverge from the strict consideration of surgical disease, and shall offer you instead a brief sketch of some of the most notable work done of old by a body of members of our profession who have never received their due reward—those, namely, who have devoted their lives to the succor of the sick and wounded in war.

#### MILITARY SURGEONS IN THE ROMAN ARMY.

Twelve months ago my friend, Dr. Barnes, of Carlisle, ex-President of this Association, made me acquainted with a remarkable paper by the late Sir James Simpson, entitled "Was the Roman Army provided with Medical Officers?"—a paper exhibiting such profound learning, so charmingly written, and so little known

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\* Read at meeting of British Medical Association, Montreal, September, 1897.