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PROSTATECTOMY.

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Mr. President and Gentlemen:—In a lecture in the Leeds Post-Graduate Course, published in the *London Lancet* in February, 1888, and again in an address in the Section of Surgery at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association held in Leeds, August, 1889, Mr. A. F. McGill spoke of the treatment of retention of urine from prostatic enlargement, by making a supra-pubic opening into the bladder and through this opening draining the bladder and removing the projecting growth from the prostate gland. To facilitate discussion, Mr. McGill put his ideas before his *confrères* in the form of the following propositions:—

(1) That prostatic enlargements which give rise to urinary symptoms are intravesical, and not rectal.

(2) That retention is caused by a valve-like action of the intravesical prostate, the urethral orifice being closed more or less completely by the contraction of the bladder on its contents.

(3) That in many cases self-catheterism is the only treatment required.

(4) That when catheter treatment fails or is unavailable, more radical measures are necessary.

(5) That this treatment, to be effectual, should for a time thoroughly drain the bladder and permanently remove the cause of the obstruction.