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### THE GREAT OMENTUM.

With More Especial Reference to the Part Played by It  
in Inflammations of the Abdominal Viscera.<sup>1</sup>

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WHEN so much has been written upon other organs, it is remarkable how little attention has been paid to the great omentum. There is a scanty literature upon pathological conditions of the organ—if organ it may be termed—mainly upon cysts and tumors of the same. This, with a few papers upon its development, and still fewer upon sundry points in its histology and upon its surgery, and until the last few months practically none upon its physiology, represents all that has been written during the century. Evidently, according to the *Index Medicus*, during the last ten years, when medical scribbling has been at its height, not two papers per annum have been published, of which the main subject has been some one or other condition of this viscus. And yet this is the ominous organ of the augurs, every aspect of which, studied by them, was found full of fate. The older priestly comparative anatomist is long past and gone, and now no modern comparative anatomist so poor as to do the omentum reverence.

Thus, if, following the time-honored custom, one wishes to lead gently up to his subject—to introduce it

<sup>1</sup> Being the main body of a paper read before the Toronto Pathological Society, December 29, 1897.