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A NOTE ON PRIMARY CANCER OF THE VAGINA WITH
THE REPORT OF A CASE.¹

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Carcinoma of the female genitals is by no means a rare disease, that of the uterus alone causing one-third of the number of deaths of women who have fatal cancerous disease. It occurs most often in those whose surroundings are unhygienic and who have to make a hard fight to earn their daily bread, the disease thus differing from myoma uteri, which is frequently observed in affluent well fed people. While this general statement is true, the seat of the primary origin of the growth varies very much in frequency, the cervix being by far the most common starting point. From here, it may spread in all directions, sending its treacherous and often undiscovered tentacles far out into the cellular tissue of the broad ligament, condemning its victim to certain, painful and speedy death, or else up into the corpus uteri, down into the vagina or into the bladder. In addition to the above origin of cancer of the vagina, this organ is frequently invaded by growths from the bladder, rectum or vulva. It is, however, one of the rarest of circumstances to find carcinoma having its primary origin in the vagina, and, when this does occur, the growth is usually of the papillomatous variety. Only one or two cases are reported annually in the whole of medical literature. Skene, in his most excellent work, "Diseases of women," utterly ignores the subject and it is but touched upon in any text-book which the writer has been able to examine. The rarity of the disease may be judged of from the

¹ Read before the Montreal Clinical Society, Nov. 27th, 1896.