

## Retrospect Department.

### QUARTERLY RETROSPECT OF GYNÆCOLOGY.

PREPARED BY T. JOHNSON-ALLOWAY, M.D.,

Instructor in Gynæcology, McGill University; Assistant Surgeon to the Montreal General Hospital; Gynæcologist to the Montreal Dispensary.

*Alexander's Operation for Shortening the Round Ligaments* (twenty-three cases), by Dr. Paul F. Mundé of New York, is the subject of a paper of very great interest and value, appearing in the *American Journal of Obstetrics*, November 1888. This operation is of special interest to the writer from the fact that he reported a successful case some three years ago (*Canada Med. and Surg. Journal*), the patient being a lady who had been an invalid for years, and had received no benefit from other forms of treatment. This lady remains perfectly well and active to the present day, her uterus being held in the anteverted position. Several of my friends saw that there was a useful field for this operation in the relief of a class of most intractable cases, and in a short time I had a number of similar cases in view for operation. Suddenly, however, there appeared on the scene a case which put an end for the time to our aspirations. This was the case of a young widowed English-woman who had been operated upon unsuccessfully, leaving as the result of the operation an enormous inguinal hernia. The uterus was still retro-displaced, and the hernial blemish rendered this poor woman an object of very great misery. She went the rounds of all our clinics, praying every one she consulted to operate upon her for the relief of the hernia, but the grave character of the case was such that I do not think she succeeded so far as I am aware. The moral effect this case had upon the professional mind was such that many became prejudiced against the procedure, and spoke in society debates of the horrors in the shape of herniæ and fatal results from septic peritonitis which awaited those who were unwary enough to undertake the operation. About this time Dr. Mundé reported six cases, in some of which he failed to find the ligaments, and said he was confident the structures were not there, or that they were so rudi-