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## Original Communications.

### GALL-STONE SURGERY.<sup>1</sup>

WITH A REPORT OF A SUCCESSFUL CASE OF CHOLEDOCHOTOMY.

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Sims made a distinct advance in surgery when he perfected the operation known as cholecystostomy. To Tait, more than to any other man, is due the credit of popularizing the operation. With the aid of antiseptic surgery the operation of cholecystostomy has been so perfected that Mayo Robson was able to report fifty-seven cases with only three deaths. Each one of these three fatal cases was complicated by malignant disease. Kehr had forty-nine cases with forty-five recoveries, the fatal cases being complicated with suppurative cholangitis, or malignant disease. Montreal, so far as I know, can present an equally good record. I am not aware of any fatal case of cholecystostomy occurring in Montreal where malignant disease was not present. In fact the operation as now performed by those of experience may be almost said to be without mortality. Even in those cases where the gall-bladder is so small and shrunken that it cannot be brought to the edges of the abdominal incision a communication can be established between the opening in the gall-bladder and the abdominal incision by the use of omentum, or by what seems to answer equally well, a drainage tube surrounded by iodoform gauze. The immediate closure of the opening in the gall-bladder and allowing it to drop back into the abdomen, while perhaps the ideal operation in suitable cases, is still open to the serious objection that at present we are often unable in any given case to say

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<sup>1</sup> Read before the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society, October 18, 1895.