

Society Proceedings.

MONTREAL MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

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Thyroidectomy under Local Anæsthesia.

DR. G. E. ARMSTRONG exhibited a patient upon whom he had performed a thyroidectomy by cocainization. The patient, a young woman, had a large unilateral thyroid which was considered by the operator to be probably a fibro-adenoma. A one per cent. solution of cocaine was used and the skin injected over an area corresponding to Kocker's incision,—starting from a little below the entrance of the artery into the growth down towards the front of the growth, and thence towards the sternum, ending at the suprasternal notch. The incision was made, the outer flap reflected, the superior and inferior thyroid arteries secured, and the growth turned out and detached. The advantages claimed for this method were; that it was painless, that as the patient was conscious and could use her voice, the operator could be perfectly sure that he was not injuring the recurrent laryngeal nerve, and that an incision in this position allowed of free access to the part. Dr. Armstrong stated that he took the ground, that, if Kocher of Berlin, who had performed over two thousand operations upon enlarged thyroids, preferred it, it must be a good method of procedure. In several operations which he had performed by this method there had been no hæmorrhage. In the present case the wound was closed with a small, subcutaneous, glass drain, which was left in for twenty-four hours and then removed. The patient was exhibited two weeks after the operation had been performed.

DR. McCRAE stated that the tumour was a mixed growth, partly colloid, partly cystic and partly adenomatous, quite an unusual combination.

DR. ENGLAND asked whether there had been any symptoms of exophthalmos or whether the growth pressed upon the trachea.

DR. ARMSTRONG, in reply, stated that his reasons for operating were: first, because of the unsightliness of the growth, which was increasing pretty rapidly; and secondly because, while there was no tremor or exophthalmos, the pressure of the growth had interfered with breathing to such an extent that on going upstairs the patient had had to rest several times. In the present case he had first tied the arteries and