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ON THE NATURE AND PREVENTION OF
URETHRAL FEVER.

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(Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal.)

Ten years ago I read before this Society a short paper on "Urethral Fever," in which I called attention especially to the causation of the disease and its nature and prognosis. To-night I propose to discuss this subject from the standpoint of the practical surgeon, with special reference to its prevention in operative and instrumental interference within the urethra.

It will first be necessary, however, to define clearly what is meant by urethral or urinary fever, and to refer briefly to the theories held as to its origin. I do not intend to occupy the time of the Society in reviewing the literature of this subject, nor to refer to authors or individual opinions, but to state as briefly as possible the theories of the leading surgeons of the present day regarding the origin of this disease. All surgeons, and in fact most general practitioners, are familiar with certain forms of constitutional disturbance which follow instrumental or operative interference within the urethra. In a certain number of such cases pre-existing disease of the kidneys, ureters or bladder, or of all these organs combined, or the setting up of a true sepsis (pyæmia or septicæmia), or the production of the disease known as surgical kidney, may explain these symptoms.