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* EXCISION OF THE LOWER HALF OF THE RECTUM FOR CANCER.

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As very few cases of this operation have been reported to this Society during the twenty-two years that I have been a member of it, I thought that it might be interesting to the members to examine this specimen and to hear a brief outline of the operation which so far has been followed by the happiest results. As the patient herself had expressed her willingness to be present, I called upon her yesterday and found her looking the picture of health, but unfortunately she had made all her arrangements to start on a thanksgiving pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Anne, so that her coming before the Society will have to be postponed until our next meeting. The specimen which I now show comprises the lower half of the rectum as well as an enlarged lymphatic gland the size of a pigeon's egg, which was removed from the cellular tissue on the left side and about two inches from the anus. Although a very careful search was made all over the pelvis, no other enlarged gland was found.

The lower quarter of the rectum was so softened by the breaking down of the disease that it came away in pieces, but the upper half of the disease was more solid, and held well. The specimen has been in formalin for several months, and is not in such good condition as it was a few weeks ago, when

* Read before the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society.