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## Original Communications.

### STENOSIS OF THE PYLORUS IN INFANCY—A SURGICAL EMERGENCY—A REPORT OF FOUR CASES OPERATED UPON, WITH RECOVERY.\*

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You are probably familiar with the beginnings of our knowledge of stenosis of the pylorus in infancy. The isolated cases of Beardsley, Williamson, and Dawoski, are classics. These were the sole recorded cases for the one hundred years previous to 1888. A knowledge of this disease, as in so many other *acute* affections, came first through post-mortem examinations. All of our knowledge of stenosis of the pylorus in infancy previous to 1898 was derived from autopsy records. The first operation for the relief of infantile pyloric stenosis was done in 1898. Since this time the information derived at the operating table has been added to the knowledge acquired previous to this date from autopsy alone.

In 1905, assisted by Quinby, I made a careful analysis and study of the 115 cases recorded in medical literature up to that time. Many interesting facts were developed by that study. Of these 115 cases 55 were records of post-mortem examinations and 60 were reports of operated cases. Up to 1908 there have been 135 cases operated upon.† Only three cases have been autopsied in France, and but five have been operated upon. Between 1898, when the first operative procedure was instituted, and 1905, a period of seven years, 60 operations were done. Between 1905 and 1908, a period of but two years, 75 operations were done for this lesion. The very great increase in the number of

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\* Read at the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Medical Association, Hamilton, Ontario, May 27, 1908.

† Dufour and Fredet, *Revue de Chirurgie*, Feb. 10, 1908.