

wealth nor rank has been to us none other than the house of God—aye, and the very gate of Heaven.”

Again wishing you a full measure of success, and assuring you of our continued watchful interest in your future career, I bid you, for my colleagues and myself—Farewell !

MALIGNANT DISEASE OF THE RECTUM TREATED BY EXCISION AND COLOTOMY.

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

The origin of cancer still remains a mystery unsolved, and the views of modern surgeons widely differ. Some look upon the cause at the outset to be purely local, a condition in which irritation long-continued will produce an alteration or change in the structure irritated ; or that some slight accident or mechanical injury will give rise to the occurrence of tumor or foreign growth, which assumes a malignant type. The evidence of the local origin is the occurrence of the tumor or growth itself, affecting, as it does, a single part or texture of the body whilst all other parts or textures of the body are in apparent healthfulness. The first indication of the disease is its local manifestation. The constitutional implication is consecutive to the local disease. The manner of dissemination of the disease is regarded as evidence of its local origin. Cancer spreads or infiltrates the tissues in its immediate vicinity, it enters the lymphatics and even the blood vessels, and is carried to distant parts in the course and by means of the blood stream. Another method of dissemination is by local contamination, by which is meant that condition in which the disease extends to contiguous structures by actual contact, a well-recognized condition described by many observers. Others, again, regard the development of the disease to be due to some ill-defined and deep-seated condition of the constitution, that there exists a prior state of the body which favors the local manifestation, and that without this predisposition no amount of local irritation or local injury will be attended in its course by the occurrence of cancerous degeneration. That this disease is local in its development can hardly be