

evenly bandaged. The ulcer was then exposed, thoroughly cleaned and scraped, and thickly covered with iodoform. After forty-eight hours the wound was dressed and all drainage tubes removed. On the fifth day again dressed, and found healed throughout almost its whole extent. The ulcer was then dressed and found healed, except a small spot not larger than a five cent piece. Healing continued uninterruptedly, and patient was walking in three weeks. At this date he is working as second cook and waiter at the hospital, and is apparently perfectly cured.

*Remarks.*—The varicose condition followed an injury to the vein and seemed to be directly caused by it. This, I think, may be found to be a more common cause of varicose veins than it has heretofore been considered. I believe the injury was the beginning of a hyperplasia, which condition gradually proceeded from the point of injury and slowly involved the whole vein. Mr. Pearce Gould has considered varicosities as an inherent growth of the vein, rather than as being due to the usually enumerated causes. It is possible also, as W. H. Bennett suggests in his late monograph, that a large proportion of varicosities originate in congenital defects of the venous apparatus and are in some patients distinctly hereditary, and that most of the so-called originating causes, such as local pressures, constipation, pressure of a long column of blood, etc., are in reality only causes of an increase of the disease or of certain symptoms connected with it, and that we must look for some other originating cause. As to treatment: In this case the removal of the whole disease seemed to be justified from the youth of the patient, 34 years, the fact that he had to work hard as a laboring man for his living, and the failure of palliative methods of treatment. From the history of the steady growth of the varicosis upwards from the point of injury, it seemed proper to endeavor to arrest the growth by removal of the diseased vein.

No other method of radical cure can compare with the *total* removal of the varicosis in point of safety or comfort to the patient, as with perfect antisepsis the wound heals quickly and painlessly, and concomitant ulcers are more quickly healed than by any other treatment. I

believe that the day has come when all such painful and dangerous methods as the use of caustics, obliteration with pins, intra or extra-venous injections, etc., should belong to the surgery of the past, and in all cases where the radical cure is determined on, the modern surgeon will remove the varix.

I would advocate more frequent resort to this operation, even in the slighter cases of varix, since I understand the pathology of the disease to be a hyperplastic growth of the vein; it may, and of en does continue, under palliative supporting treatment, even when such treatment is successful in preventing the usual sequelæ of ulceration, pain, etc.

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## Correspondence.

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### LODGE PRACTICE.

*Editor of CANADIAN PRACTITIONER:*

DEAR SIR,—I have watched with interest your articles on "Contract Practice." Your Queen City appears to be seriously affected with it. I think it would be well if you could hear from all the counties in the Province on this matter, so that the profession would know its prevalence, and the feeling existing in reference to it. With your permission I shall speak a few words for the county of Brant. If the other counties have done as much as our own to rise above the practice, you may well look to the country districts for a precedent. The matter has time and again been broached at our Provincial Association, but the time is too short for a discussion that would necessarily take more minutes than our meetings can spare, and hence it has never been definitely acted upon. I think it would facilitate matters very much were you to allow space in your journal for a thorough discussion. Our Association might then be ready at its next meeting to take a vote, without a prolonged debate. After a lengthy consideration of the question by the Brant County Medical Association, the following resolution was carried unanimously at a meeting held June 10th, 1878:—"That in the opinion of this Association contract practice, except in so far as it relates to government situations and charitable institutions, is not expedient in the interests either of the profession or the public." "It is there-