

The Canadian Practitioner and Review.

VOL. XXIX.

TORONTO, JUNE, 1904.

NO. 6.

Original Communications.

OPERATIVE RHINOLOGY: ITS REGULATIVE PRINCIPLES.*

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When our President honored me by asking for a paper, I said to him that I thought very few of our members would be interested in the special lines from which I could take my subjects. I will endeavor, however, to interest the general practitioner as well as the specialist for a short time.

I have chosen this subject for discussion to-night, first, because within the last twenty years this former insignificant sprig of the operative tree has become a flourishing branch: second, because many general practitioners have entered this field of work, and are fairly proficient in it; third, because of the very interesting papers lately read on post-operative treatment of the nasal mucous membrane; fourth, and chiefly, because there are some who maintain that operative rhinology has run riot, and that the majority of the numerous operations now performed on the nose by means of the saw, and especially by the cantery, are not only unnecessary but harmful.

"Too many operations are done in the nose." This is a common expression among the laity and also in the profession. It is said we have no standard, and that we operate indiscriminately and unscrupulously. We are told that very serious results often follow our operative work. To a conscientious rhinologist these are very damaging aspersions, and I will endeavor to meet them fairly and honestly, try to find out what truth they possess, show that we have a standard and make clear what that standard is.

*Read before the Wentworth Medical Society, April, 1901.