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## CONTENTS.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.		EDITORIAL.	
A Case of Cancer of the Breast.....	409	Large attendance at Bishop's College	429
<b>SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS.</b>		A Word of Advice to the Young Doctor.....	430
Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal.—Stated Meeting February 5th, 1892.....	410	Western Hospital.—Contagiousness of Consumption.....	431
Stated Meeting February 19th, 1892	416	Private Hospital for Diseases of Women.....	432
<b>PROGRESS OF SCIENCE.</b>		Book Notices.....	432
Conservative Gynecology.....	418	Pamphlets Received.....	432
The Modern Treatment of Syphilis.	421	News Items.....	432
Tuberculosis as a Local and Contagious Disease in New Haven.....	424		
The Raw Throat of Dyspepsia.—The Treatment of an Acute Attack of Hay Fever.....	426		
Who'll Kill the Bacillus?—Medical Properties of Vegetables—After an Alcoholic Debauch.—La Grippe.—Treatment of Diphtheria with Salicylous Irrigations.....	427		
Vomiting in Pregnancy.—Ichthyol.—Gonorrhoea.—For Hay Fever.....	428		

## Original Communications.

### A CASE OF CANCER OF THE BREAST

By A. Laphorn Smith, Professor of Gynecology in Bishop's University, Montreal.

Mrs. S., aged 31, consulted me in June, 1891, for proclidentia of the uterus, which protruded from the vulva about three inches. She had a bad laceration of the cervix, and as all the ordinary measures for retaining the organ within the body proved unsuccessful, I urged her to have the uterus extirpated, an operation which would have been very easy by the vagina, as I could feel the upper margin of the broad ligaments without exerting any traction of the organ. Dr. Perrigo kindly placed a bed in the Western Hospital at my disposal, as it was his term of service, but he advised me to try the effects of amputation of the cervix before deciding upon the major operation, which I might do later if necessary. I followed his advice, and on the 15th September I performed Schröder's operation. She made a rapid recovery, and the result was fairly satisfactory, the womb no longer coming out of the body, and only when she is very tired does it prolapse at all. Before leaving the hospital she called my attention to a hard nodule in the centre of the breast which she had first noticed last March, at which time it was only the size of a mar-

ble; in June it had grown to the size of a hen's egg, and in September it was as big as a small orange, and there was slight enlargement of one of the axillary glands. As there was no retraction of the nipple, and as she was so young, I hardly believed that it could be a malignant growth. As her bed was needed, I dismissed her until January, when I was to come on for duty.

*Family History.*—Father died at the age of 70 from causes unknown. Mother still living at the age of 70. She has had ten brothers and sisters, of whom one brother died in infancy and one at the age of 23 of typhoid fever; one sister died of acute rheumatism, and another at the age of 18 suddenly of disease of the brain.

Patient began to menstruate at the age of 13, and has always been regular, though scanty, painless, lasting two days. Married seven years; one child five years ago; no miscarriages.

On the 23rd January, assisted by Drs. England and Springle, I removed the breast and in order to avoid recurrence I kept an inch at least outside of the apparent area of the disease. Finding that the disease had apparently spread to the pectoralis major I removed that entire muscle, and then proceeded to clean out the axilla both of its glands and fat. One of the glands was as large as an almond and the others