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Original Memoirs

DUODENO-CHOLEDOCHOTOMY*

With Case Report by Jasper Halpenny, M.A., M.D., C.M. Surgeon to the
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Before McBurney first incised the duodenum to gain access to a gallstone in the second or third part of the common bile-duct, great difficulty was experienced in reaching stones in this region. This procedure, like many another, required some years to popularize. While discussing McBurney's paper (1) Briddon (2) voiced the then popular conception regarding the danger of sepsis where the continuity of the bowel is disturbed when he "agreed that in exceptional cases the operation could be better done through the duodenum, providing the operator was conversant with the details of the operation; for most general surgeons the incision of the duodenum might prove difficult." Five years before this Maurice H. Richardson (3) reported McBurney's first case and, voicing the same sentiments, said: "Operations upon the common duct by way of the duodenum may be practiced under exceptional circumstances as in McBurney's case of a gallstone impacted near the duodenum

* Read before the surgical section of the Canadian Medical Association at Toronto, June, 1910.