

*

THE
CANADIAN PRACTITIONER

EDITOR:

ADAM H. WRIGHT, B.A., M.D. Tor.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS:

JAMES F. W. ROSS, M.D. Tor.

JOHN CAVEN, B.A., M.D. Tor.

EDMUND E. KING, M.D. Tor.

PUBLISHERS:

THE BRYANT PRESS, 20 BAY STREET.

Vol. XXI.]

MAV, 1896.

[No. 5

Original Communications.

THE DRAINAGE TUBE IN ABDOMINAL SURGERY.

By J. F. W. ROSS, M.D. TOR.,

Professor of Gynæcology and Abdominal Surgery, Woman's Medical College; Surgeon to
St. John's Hospital, Toronto General Hospital, and St. Michael's Hospital.

EVERY operator engaged in this field of work must pass through two or three stages of uncertainty. According to his teaching he will become an advocate of drainage, or oppose it. After he has obtained his training, as all operators should do in the practice of a preceptor, he begins to scan the histories of his cases, and to think and cogitate for himself.

After losing one or two cases in which he has used the drainage tube, he looks about him for the cause of death. Is it from infection that is already present in the abdominal cavity, or is it from infection that takes place through the drainage tube? He jots down mentally the old recognized rules adopted by many operators for the use of the drainage tube. He runs over them as follows :