

Reports of Societies.

THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from last number.)

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ADDRESS ON SURGERY.

Dr. Hingston, of Montreal, gave the address on Surgery. It consisted of an historical review of the subject. He held that in Egypt, before the time of Moses, many so-called modern operations were practised. The Greeks considered surgery a divine art. Pythagoras, about 600 B.C., elevated surgery to a science. The Egyptians and Greeks practised nephrotomy, used tents, issues and noxas, and trephined the skull; they also practised percussion as an aid to diagnosis, and drew fluid from the chest. Hippocrates made use of immediate auscultation as a means of recognizing disease. But the fall of the Macedonian Empire seriously interfered with the progress of surgery. The Alexandrian school were skilful in abdominal surgery. They first used the catheter 2200 years ago Ammonius crushed stone in the bladder. There was another retrogression in the science at the time of the Cæsars. Celsus found that there might be rupture of brain substances without fracture of skull. He was first to describe the *contre coup*. Heliodonius opened the bronchial tubes. The Arabians were credited with greater proficiency in surgery than history will justify; but to them we owe the preservation of Egyptian surgery. The suturing of wounds was practised by Albicasis, also the incising of the kidney for abscess. The Council of Tours forbade the clergy to spill blood. By this prohibition surgery was divorced from medicine and got a serious set-back. When Columbus discovered America the physicians of Europe were not superior to the medicine men of the aborigines of America. Vesalius laid

the foundation of modern surgery. Pare advocated cupping for displacements of the uterus. Wiseman, in Britain, was original but crude. His reports of successful treatment of cancer are so remarkable as to arouse suspicion as to the accuracy of his diagnosis. Wiseman believed in the magic royal touch for the king's evil.

Surgery, the speaker went on to say, preceded medicine in this country. The Governor of Nouvelle, France, was always asking for surgeons to be sent out. The people did not need physicians. Dr. Hingston then described the marvellous advances of surgery during the past forty years in the treatment of many surgical cases; but was sorry that in some cases this divine art had so degenerated to a commercial question, owing to the greed for gold spirit which had extended to some of the members of the profession. He especially cauterized the practice of those one-idea gynæcologists who referred all female disorders to the uterus and instituted a daily tinkering process as a means of obtaining money.

THURSDAY MORNING.

Dr. Holmes, of Chatham, read a paper which consisted of a report of two cases of laparotomy for unusual conditions. The first gave a history of miscarriage preceded by hæmorrhage, and this was followed by pain in the left iliac region, where a swelling was discovered like an orange in size and shape, two inches to the left of the uterus, and fluctuating. Laparotomy was performed, and an ovary containing three ounces of pus removed. The abdominal cavity was flushed and usual dressings applied: no drainage tube. The important point in the case was that there was no disease of the tube. This was unique as far as he was able to make out from the records.

The second case Dr. Holmes had seen after the patient had been ill ten days. Pain was present in right iliac region where