

I was requested to operate, and the patient was placed under my care for some time previous to the operation. Drs. Tamlyn, McCrimmon and McKay assisted me. The patient was brought fully under the influence of chloroform, and, having previously marked the line on which to make the incision, I proceeded to remove the gland. The time occupied in the operation did not exceed eight seconds. There was scarcely any portion of the pectoral muscle excised, the hæmorrhage was slight, not exceeding one, or at most two, ounces. I left the wound open for about twenty minutes after the arteries were tied, as is my usual practice, so as to be thoroughly satisfied that no more arteries required the ligature. The atmosphere is undoubtedly the best styptic for freshly incised wounds. The wound was studded and dressed, and the patient placed in bed. Her recovery was exceedingly rapid. She had no recurrent bad symptoms, and, in a fortnight, rode home six miles in an open sleigh, quite convalescent. The breast was removed in January, and in the following April she did her usual household work. Not the slightest unfavorable symptom has yet occurred, and I hope never may.

REMARKS.—As a historical record, Galen was the first who has mentioned excision of the mammary gland. The operation was performed in the following manner.—An incision was made at the base of the tumor, and immediately sealed with a red-hot iron. Incision was made after incision, and red-hot iron applied after red-hot iron, till the barbarity was brought to a close. Yet we, who know so much better, need not boast. It was life against death, and the ancients chose life rather than death, just as medical men and their patients do to-day, and with the same objects in view. The Arabian physicians of the days of Harounal Raschid were far in advance of those of Charlemagne in surgery. They used a toothed forceps to hold the breast, and cut it away with a species of scissors, they also used torsion to arrest hæmorrhage, as well as ligatures and cauterization. We can thus trace the mental effort towards improvement, in this one operation, over a space of 1750 years. Little is known about the surgery of the dark ages. In Edinburgh, in 1820, under the best skill of the day, it required an hour and three-quarters to remove the mammary gland, and it was considered a brilliant operation at that. In 1844, I was present when the late distinguished Mr. Syme took half-an-hour to remove