

# THE CANADIAN PRACTITIONER

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## Original Communications.

### DISPLACEMENTS OF THE LIVER.\*

By J. E. GRAHAM, M.D., M.R.C.P. LOND.,

Professor of Medicine and Clinical Medicine, University of Toronto; Physician to the  
Toronto General Hospital, and St. Michael's Hospital.

**T**HE liver is freely movable within certain limits. Its position changes with each respiration, and with many of the movements of the body. It is quite probable, also, that in females with pendulous abdomen the liver may, on account of its own weight, descend an inch below its normal limit without producing any unpleasant symptoms, and that many such cases have not been noticed, nor recorded.

Cases of marked displacement, in which the normal hepatic dullness is absent, and the liver found low down in the abdominal cavity, are rare, and the number so far recorded is limited.

In 1754, Heister published a description of the post-mortem appearance of the abdominal organs in a case of hepatic displacement, and added a drawing, a representation of which I show you. This article seems to have been overlooked by almost every writer on the subject, until it was discovered by Faure, and published in his recent work at Paris in 1892.

\*Read before the Association of American Physicians, Washington, May, 1895.