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THREE CASES OF CARCINOMA OF THE MIDDLE AND
UPPER PORTIONS OF THE RECTUM.¹

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I venture to bring before the Society to-night the reports of three cases, upon which I have recently operated, of carcinoma involving the middle and upper parts of the rectum. The relative frequency of this condition, the obscurity of the symptoms attending it in its earlier history, and the successes achieved by modern operative methods of treatment are my reasons for bringing these cases before you.

They are as follows :

CASE I.—H. B., *æt.* 58, was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, on the 13th of June, 1896, complaining of diarrhoea and hæmorrhage from the bowels, and loss of flesh and strength. Diarrhoea and hæmorrhage had lasted for about a year. Loss of flesh had become noticeable about six months before coming under observation, and he had had three attacks of intestinal obstruction with stercoral vomiting in the previous December, January, and February respectively. He had also had another attack of obstruction five weeks before coming to hospital. His family and personal history were excellent. Examination of the rectum revealed a hard nodular indurated mass extending lower on the posterior wall of the bowel than on the anterior. Its lower border was fully two and a-half inches from the anus. The upper limit could not be felt from the abdomen. There was no evidence of disease in the other organs. On the 16th of June the abdomen was explored, and the first stage of an inguinal colotomy

¹ Read before the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society, April 9th, 1897.