

Although the removal by the knife is so strongly condemned by most surgeons, I considered the operation justifiable under the circumstances, and being urged by the patient and her mother, I consented to operate, rather than postpone it until the tumour had assumed gigantic proportions and thereby render the operation one of greater danger and severity.

This operation was not one of great severity, there was no great loss of blood, no vessels or nerves of any importance wounded, no great constitutional shock, it was not followed by any inflammation, no suppuration took place, the wound uniting throughout by the first intention. It was simply a careful dissection on the living body, where one false step might have been followed by serious, if not fatal consequences.

Three days after I had operated I received the November number of the *Canada Medical and Surgical Journal*, in which I see that Dr. Fenwick had, like myself, been "fool hardy" enough to remove a diseased thyroid gland of very large size, and with the most satisfactory result, and upon the success of which, I most heartily congratulate him.

If we always follow the doctrines laid down in books, we can never advance, we can never improve, surgery requires an exploring mind, with a bold and steady hand, devoid of rashness, and guided by prudence and sound knowledge to accomplish such successes as are now daily seen, as in the operation for the excision of joints, ovariectomy, and others which but a few years ago were ridiculed and condemned, and considered as altogether unjustifiable.

I do not wish it to be inferred, that because Dr. Fenwick's case and my own were successful that I should advise every enlargement of the thyroid gland to be removed, on the contrary, I consider it a very dangerous operation, and one which ought never to be attempted for the removal of the ordinary hypertrophied condition of the gland, commonly called goitre. Nevertheless the operation does not deserve the sweeping condemnation bestowed upon it by many surgical writers, but may be undertaken in certain diseased conditions, when from pressure upon important parts, the health of the individual is likely to be seriously affected.

I should strongly caution the younger members of the profession living in remote country towns and villages, from attempting the operation, unless assisted by a competent staff of practitioners