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ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

A CASE OF COLLOID GOITRE, INVOLVING THE MIDDLE LOBE OF THE THYROID GLAND, ASSOCIATED WITH ASTHMATIC ATTACKS AND RESULTING IN SUDDEN DEATH.*

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Mrs. M., aged 51; patient had suffered from goitre for some seven years which had occasioned her a great deal of discomfort. The tumor was enlarging more rapidly of late. The ordinary means of treatment had been tried without success, when she was referred to the clinic of Dr. C. R. Dickson, Electrician to the Toronto General Hospital, on Wednesday March 10th, 1897. He examined and found her a suitable case for electrical treatment. Measurement showed the circumference of the neck at the upper part of the goitre to be $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches, at the middle $15\frac{3}{8}$ inches and at the lower part $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The goitre itself measured six inches transversely and four inches from above downwards, the prominence occupying the median line of the neck, the sides not being involved. Patient had one sister affected with goitre.

She was ordered to return to the hospital for treatment the following Friday, March 12th, which she did. The neck was prepared for operation in the usual manner, during which time she was telling the doctor the history of her case. A short superficial incision was made in the median line of the neck, a trochar and cannula were introduced about $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch. The trochar was then removed, about a dram of thin serous-like fluid withdrawn and an equal amount of normal saline solution slowly injected, without discomfort. The cannula was left in position and the current from a voltaic battery, less than 20 milli amperes turned on. The patient was telling about previous attacks of dyspnoea from which she had suffered. On one occasion about 18 months before she had an attack during which she became livid and thought she would choke. This lasted for some hours. It was on account of difficulty in breathing and fear of a recurrence of these attacks that treatment was sought. While speaking, she was suddenly seized with spasmodic cough

* Read before the Toronto Clinical Society.