

It will be well before discussing the subject as a whole to give as briefly and as clearly as possible the facts in connection with these two cases.

Dr. Hanna's patient was John McK., aged 45 years at the time of death, by trade a harness maker. His mother had died of cancer at the age of 50. The father was still alive in 1893, aged 75, a brother and a sister were living and healthy. He had been strong and in excellent health until January, 1892, when he noticed that he was growing rather stout in the abdomen, while at the same time other parts of the body were becoming emaciated. There were no other symptoms: he ate well, slept well and felt well, and not until March of that year did he consider his condition sufficiently unsatisfactory to make it necessary for him to consult his local physician, who prescribed diuretics. The abdominal swelling continued to increase steadily and with it the emaciation, so that in April he came to Dr. Hanna who found the general condition of the patient good in every particular save for the presence of a large tense abdomen revealing fluctuation from side to side, more enlarged to the left; the girth at the level of the umbilicus was 37 inches. Aspiration yielded not a drop of fluid, hence a diagnosis of abdominal tumour was made and the patient was persuaded to enter the Montreal General Hospital. There Dr. Shepherd (to whom I am indebted for the accompanying illustration) made an exploratory incision on May 2nd, 1892, and found a solid uniform growth occupying the whole abdominal cavity. The relations of the tumour were found to be such that it was decided not to venture upon removal. The patient recovered well from the operation and in a fortnight returned home. From the date of his return until his death on February 9th, 1893, Dr. Hanna saw him at intervals of a fortnight. The course was one of continual growth of the tumour and steady emaciation of body, without throughout a single moment of pain or failure of appetite; the bowels and kidneys never failed to perform their functions. In October the measurement at the level of the umbilicus had increased to 47 inches, and in the middle of this month his physician noticed an apparent softening about the size of a saucer in the umbilical region, aspirated and drew off nine pints of sweet pus. From this date aspiration was practised every week or ten days, and in all close upon 60 pints were removed. Six weeks before death the patient presented slight signs of septicaemia and from this time onwards the pus aspirated was extremely offensive, while towards the end slight anasarca of the legs up to the knees manifested itself. The patient became weaker and weaker, respiration was impeded and he died on February 9th, 1893. To the