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ADDRESS ON SOME OF THE RECENT ADVANCES IN SURGERY.

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(Read before the Canadian Medical Association, at Ottawa, September, 1888.)

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN:—When informed by our worthy President that I was appointed to deliver the address on *Surgery* before this Association, I felt that the duty might have devolved on one much more competent to treat this great subject satisfactorily; one who had the faculty of making his address interesting to every one of you. When writing me, Dr. Graham said that the address should be limited to a period of—well, say that of an ordinary sermon, and hinted that the members of the Association did not want to be lectured to. I shall endeavor, to the best of my ability, to carry out these instructions.

It is not so many years ago that Boyer, after the French war, said that “surgery seems to have attained the highest degree of perfection of which it is capable.” The history of surgery, which during the past fifty years has been one of continuous advance, has proved the falsity of Boyer’s opinion. During the last decade this advance has been almost phenomenal, and now scarcely a month passes without the introduction of some new operative procedure or some daring operation on cavities and