

# CANADA MEDICAL RECORD

---

---

MAY, 1899.

---

---

## Original Communications.

---

### HERNIA FOLLOWING ABDOMINAL OPERATIONS, ITS PREVENTION AND CURE.\*

By A. LAPHORN SMITH, B.A., M.D., M.R.C.S., Eng.

Fellow of the British and American Gynecological Societies; Professor of Clinical Gynecology in Bishop's University; Gynecologist to the Montreal Dispensary; Surgeon-in-Chief of the Samaritan Free Hospital for Women; Surgeon to the Western Hospital, Montreal.

Although hernia following abdominal operations is in the writer's opinion quite preventable, there is no denying the fact that it occurs with sufficient frequency to render it a bugbear more or less to every physician who advises a patient to submit to abdominal section. Rarely does a discussion take place at any of our great society meetings in which laparotomy as a method of cure is recommended, without some speaker, generally on the opposition side, making the objection that the opening of the abdomen may be followed by hernia. And his objection is a very tenable one, for at the great New York Hospital for the ruptured and crippled, the surgeons report an appalling number of patients applying to them, in whom this accident has happened after coeliotomy. There may not be so many of these cases in Great Britain and Ireland, but even there one has only to read the journals for a month or two to learn that it is rather a frequent occurrence. When it does happen it gives rise to disturbances, discomforts and dangers which are sometimes far greater than those of the disease for which the abdominal incision was made. Many of those who came under the writer's care were suffering from strangula-

\* Read before British Gynecological Society, 15th April, 1899.