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## *Original Contributions.*

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### ADDRESS IN SURGERY.\*

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BY W. B. COLEY, M.D., NEW YORK.

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GENTLEMEN,—I come before you to-day with mingled feelings of pleasure and anxiety, due on the one hand to a deep appreciation of the high honor conferred upon me by your invitation to deliver the "Address in Surgery" before such a distinguished gathering, and on the other, to a fear that I shall fall far short of your expectations.

I am aware that time-honored custom and tradition call for a very general subject, such as the "Art of Surgery," "Advance in Surgery," and the like, but a somewhat careful study of recent addresses has convinced me that this ground has already been gone over so frequently and so well that I trust you will pardon me for choosing a subject which, though somewhat special in character, is still one of universal interest, and of rapidly increasing importance to the medical profession, viz., "The Radical Cure of Hernia."

It is impossible to view the present methods and results of the operative treatment of hernia in the true perspective without a brief survey of the past, stopping here and there for a moment to note the more important landmarks.

The historical picture presented shows that this evolution has not been a gradual and harmonious development, but rather a series of brilliant conceptions based on more or less sound anatomical principles, at one time commanding the respect and confidence

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\*Read before the Canadian Medical Association, Toronto, August, 1899.