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## ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

### THE UNOFFICIAL GYNAECOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF THE INSANE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.\*

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My first attempt in gynaecological treatment of the insane was made on Jan. 5th, 1898, with such remarkable results that I have lost no opportunity of investigation in this direction. Although the work has not yielded the almost incredible results that were evinced by my first few cases, they have been fairly satisfactory, and sufficiently encouraging to justify the effort and to stimulate a more systematic and thorough investigation into the relations which exist between pathological conditions of the pelvic organs and abnormal psychic phenomena.

My examinations comprise 98 cases, and my operations 33. Of these, 42 examinations and 24 operations were in British Columbia and to these I shall confine my remarks.

None of these patients presented indications of assymetry of features, nor high arched palate, irregular ears, defects of speech, deafness, chorea, strabismus, *i.e.*, waverings of eyes or twitching of facial muscles. In the cases operated upon no hereditary taint was obtainable.

The preliminary examination was at first conducted under an anaesthetic, but latterly this was as much as possible dispensed with, using it only for violent cases. It has been my practice to open the abdomen only when external examination reveals disease, but a more extended experience leads me to consider intra-abdominal examination an essential part if there be indications pointing in that direction with an absence of determinable disease elsewhere. With modern methods such an examination should have no mortality and but a few weeks confinement, and surely a disease that would remove a patient from friends and society perhaps for life justifies such careful investigation.

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\* Presented at the meeting of the British Columbia Medical Association held at Vancouver, Aug. 9th, 1900.