

# Ontario Medical Journal.

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## Original Communications.

### BILIARY CALCULI.\*

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The case which I have to describe to-night is one of biliary calculus, which in itself presents no especial features beyond the ordinary, except that it was under observation by the patient himself for a longer term of years than usual, although he so strongly dissented from the opinion given him that post-mortem examination was permitted to satisfy those of his friends who coincided with his dissent.

The patient, in his fifty-second year at the time of his death, had pains of a colicky nature in the region of the gall bladder, recurring at intervals from the time he was twenty years old. These, however, were so slight, and of such brief duration, that professional assistance was not sought until two years ago, when I for the first time saw him in the agony of passing a calculus. Upon careful inquiry, at that time, into the history of his former seizures of colic I could not learn anything more definite than that there was pain more or less acute, of shorter or longer duration, and always referable to one place, but never requiring more diligent treatment than hot stupes and simple hot aromatic infusions. No after effects were noticeable, not even the slightest icteric tint.

The attack in question, of two years ago, was, however, most unmistakable; there was present the usual abrupt invasion with the excruciating pain in the right hypochondrium, radiating to the right shoulder thorax and epigastrium, associated with rigor and elevation of temperature, and followed by marked jaundice after the decline of the acute symptoms.

I saw him again in June of this year in another attack, quite as severe, and learned from him that in the intervening period he had suffered from two other seizures similar in character, which had been treated by another physician whose diagnosis, I was told, did not agree with mine.

On the 26th October last he had a more than usually severe recurrence which continued for three days, and before convalescence was established, another attack (on the 31st October) of colic, supervened more severe than the first, which was followed by intense depression, violent hiccough lasting for two days, syncope from exhaustion and the intensity of the pain, and death on the 4th of November.

Post-mortem examination, conducted by Dr. W. H. B. Aikins, revealed a gall bladder about six inches in length, distended with bile, mucus and pus, and containing forty-five calculi, here shown, the largest of which completely obstructed the opening into the cystic duct, and was with some difficulty pushed backward into the gall bladder. The inner surface of the gall bladder was extensively ulcerated.

The liver, which was intensely congested throughout, was fatty and cirrhotic, its upper surface was

\* Read at a meeting of the Toronto Clinical Society, December 15th, 1892.