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ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

SPLENECTOMY.*

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The following case of excision of the spleen with recovery which I have had the opportunity of studying has suggested the subject of this paper. Dr. J. A. Temple has furnished me with notes of another case.

Case No. I. On Nov. 16, 1899, there was admitted to Toronto General Hospital under the care of 'Dr. Nevitt, Agnes F., aged 29 years, suffering from chronic pain in the abdomen and back, extreme weakness and pallor and recurrent diarrhœa. She said there was a lump in her abdomen. The patient was born in Ontario and with the exception of the ordinary diseases of childhood from which good recoveries were made, she enjoyed good health until 16 years of age. She worked in a woollen mill. At this work she grew pale and began to be troubled with a dragging pain in the back and attacks of pain, in the epigastrium, attributed to dyspepsia. She has had more or less of these pains ever since. She gave no history of malaria. Menstruation began at 14 years of age and has always been painful but otherwise normal. She married at 21 but has had neither children nor miscarriages.

Five years ago, when she had been married two years, she was seized during the night with an attack of smothering, and pain in the epigastrium. No cause was known for the attack; she had not been injured directly or by overlifting. Her physician in examining her discovered, what she herself had never noticed, a lump in the abdomen. Since then pain in the lower part of the abdomen has been almost constant—never very great but aggravated by meturation. During the past summer diarrhœa has been a prominent symptom and she has steadily lost weight, strength and color, especially during the past two months.

At the time of her admission to the hospital her appearance was that of a very much emaciated and anæmic woman. Her sclerotics were clear and pupils active, her tongue clean and temperature normal. Heart and lungs were healthy. In examining the abdomen, which was quite lax

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