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Original Articles

GALL-STONES.*

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Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I am not prepared to present to you anything strikingly original, but to give a resume of the subject of gall-stones and a history of nine cases on whom I have operated.

It is now more than twenty years since Mr. George Brown, a general practitioner in London, operated for gall-stones, but it is only within the past dozen years that the operation has been familiar to surgeons and medical men.

In the early days of its history, the successful cases published by Lawson Tait and Mayo Robson aroused general expectations and made a deep impression on medical men as well as the general public.

The stones are found of almost every color—white, grey, brown and black; of any size, from a grain of sand to that of a walnut, or even larger; of any shape, round or smooth, sharp or angular, often faceted; and in any number, from solitary stones—which are usually large—to hundreds. The kind most frequently met with is the size of a pea, greyish-white in color, faceted when they have been lying in contact, most of them readily breaking down or easily crushed between the thumb and finger.

*Read before British Columbia Medical Association, August 29th, 30th, 1902.