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A REVIEW OF SOME OF THE CHANGES IN SURGICAL
THOUGHT AND TREATMENT DURING THE PAST
THIRTY-SIX YEARS.

BY

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At the suggestion of two of the ex-Presidents of the Association, Sir William proposed, instead of showing a number of clinical cases, to give an *aperçu* of the more important changes in surgical thought and surgical treatment during the thirty-six years in which he had been surgeon to the Hotel-Dieu hospital.

Brain Surgery was almost a new departure since then; for although practised by the ancients in certain cases, especially in depressed fracture, it was reserved for recent times to locate disease within the cranium by disturbance of function at a distant part, the nearest approach to an exact science hitherto made in any department of the healing art. The speaker had employed trephining many times, using, more recently a large circular saw for the purpose. He had trephined for epilepsy, paralysis, depressed bone and tumour. In the first two, success was occasional; in the two last, the success which followed was sometimes quite beyond his expectation. In no instance, however, had any serious disturbance occurred as the result of the operation.

In the treatment of *nasopharyngeal tumours* he had formerly advocated the German method of cutting through the attachments of one side of the nose, and of turning it over to the other side so as to reach the tumour through the increased space thus afforded; a very

¹ An abstract of an address delivered at the Hotel Dieu Hospital before the members of the Canadian Medical Association, August 27, 1896.