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CONTENTS.

<p>ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.</p> <p>Treatment of Urethral Stricture. 1</p> <p>SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS.</p> <p>Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal, 5.—Annual Meeting Medico-Chirurgical Society. 9</p>	<p>PROGRESS OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.</p> <p>Vomiting of Pregnancy, 12.—The Treatment of Phthisis by Iodoform, 13.—The Treatment of Bright's Disease of the Kidney, 13.—Infantile Leucorrhœa, 14.—Chloral Poisoning 15.—Fissure of the Anus, 16.—Diphtheria and Paralysis of the Vocal Cords, 16.—On the Treatment of Eczema of the</p>	<p>Hands, 19.—Excessive Sweating of Hands..... 22</p> <p>EDITORIALS.</p> <p>The Provincial Medical Board, 11.—Opening of the Medical Schools, 23.—Montreal School of Pharmacy, 23.—Dio Lewis's Monthly, 23.—Our Little Ones and the Nursery, 23.—Personal, 24.—The Late Dr. J. A. Sewell..... 24</p>
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Original Communications.

TREATMENT OF URETHRAL STRICTURE.

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(Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society,
12th October, 1883.)

Several years ago I was called to see a male patient, aged 27, suffering from severe pain in his glans penis and about the hypogastrium. He was micturating every hour, and passing urine heavily loaded with mucus and some pus, showing that he had at least subacute, if not acute, cystitis. Being a very intelligent man, and like most patients of the kind who suffer long from disease, he had made a study of his case, and I was able, without difficulty, to get a full history of his previous troubles.

Nearly three years before he had had an attack of gonorrhœa, which he allowed to run into gleet, which gleet discharge, he says, has persisted ever since the acute attacks, sometimes almost disappearing, at other times increasing in quantity, losing its serous character, and becoming quite white from admixture with pus. After having had gleet for some time (several months) he noticed that he had difficulty in passing his urine freely, and that the stream was not only diminished in size but was twisted and split into two portions. This alarmed him, so that he applied for medical advice.

The medical man whom he consulted told him, on examination by catheterization, that he had urethral stricture about the middle of the spongy portion of the canal, which would admit only a No. 5 instrument. He then went under treatment by gradual dilatation and the symptoms were considerably ameliorated. Having learned to pass gum elastic bougies he gave up medical attendance, and went to work to treat himself.

However, he found that the active business he was engaged in at the time, and the consequent amount of walking he had to do, interfered very materially with his recovery, so he left the city he was then living in, and went to reside in the country, when complete rest, proper diet, and regular habits for a couple of months, almost restored him to health, for, as you may imagine, the necessity of using bougies continually, while in active employment, had considerably reduced him in health and spirits. He says at that time he was using a No. 7 catheter, although, by employing a little force, he could introduce No. 8. As time wore on he found that he was obliged to pass a catheter to draw off his urine, and that he could find this habit (for he thinks that it at last degenerated into a habit) was growing upon him, and that urinating without its use was always attended by some straining and pain. He shortly afterwards left the country to live in a small town in Ontario where he came across a doctor who persuaded him to a somewhat original treatment for his trouble, viz. :