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HERNIA.

BY HON. M. SULLIVAN, M.D., KINGSTON.

Read before the Ontario Medical Association.

GENTLEMEN,—The founders of this Association could not, in their collective wisdom, have devised any scheme more practically useful, more solidifying and beneficial to their society, than that which gives to its chief executive officer the privilege of naming a member to prepare a paper on some subject which shall be discussed in each section, and associating with him a few others who will give the subject more than passing attention. In obedience to that call, I have the honor to appear before you this evening. After recovering from the surprise incident to such a nomination, which I could only attribute to the President's tenderness of heart, I felt it my duty to bow without hesitation to his will and pleasure; not so much for the honor done me, but mainly because I realized the many great advantages of this mode of discussion to the rank and file of the profession. I felt that to that hard-worked and often ill-requited individual, termed the "General Practitioner," with but little time to read and less time to experiment, it was a great boon—enabling him to record and utilize a vast amount of experience; to analyse and test various theories; stimulating him to careful and accurate observation; finally, enabling him to rise from the dull level of routine and monot-

ony to the higher plane of active progress and philosophic thought.

The selection of as subject next gave me no small amount of perplexity. On reflection, the absence of any written record of my work was painfully impressed on my mind, and caused me to select some general practical subject. Thirty-five years had elapsed since I first entered, with, I hope, due respect, the Temple of Hygeia, and, taking a retrospective glance over so long a period spent in the varied field of general practice, I found many subjects which had left more or less impression on my mind, affording, it is true, very little scope for the imagination, yet which could not fail to interest those so numerous represented here to-day, who are going, or will go, over much the same territory as I have.

Now, gentlemen, hernia appeared to me one of those subjects on which I might venture to address you; one which did not need so much original work to commend it, which is of general interest, and which, by its frequency, and sometimes sudden emergency, demands correct, concise, and clear information, followed by prompt, decided action.

To go over the whole subject would be a fruitless and unnecessary task. I will only, therefore, select such points as experience has impressed most deeply on my memory, and the depth of which impressions are, I feel, the best tests of their utility and importance. Previous to doing so, I may remark that no subject can claim higher antiquity than that of hernia. Its