

Dominion Medical Monthly

And Ontario Medical Journal

VOL. XXXVII.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1911.

No. 3

Original Articles

*DIAGNOSTIC VALUE OF THE CYSTOSCOPE.

BY GEO. EWART WILSON, M.B. (TOR.), F.R.C.S. (ENG.),

Demonstrator of Anatomy, University of Toronto; Clinical Assistant in Surgery, University of Toronto.

Of the numerous mechanical devices for diagnostic purposes invented within the past quarter of a century, the cystoscope stands easily in the front rank. To Doctor Max Nitze must be given the honor of being its originator, he having designed his instrument in 1879. In Nitze's original instrument the source of light was a platinum loop kept at a white heat by an electric current. This was a tremendous advance upon the old paraffin lamp, although Bruck of Breslau, a dentist, had fifteen years previously conceived the brilliant idea of utilizing a platinum wire heated by galvanism as the source of light for examining the mouth, and constructed for that purpose what he called a stomatoscope. The difficulty with the platinum loop cystoscope lay in the great heat given off, thereby necessitating a water-cooling apparatus which was so cumbersome that although the instrument was hailed with delight by the profession it soon fell into disuse. With the introduction by Edison of the cold lamp the modern cystoscope had its inception, Nitze having successfully used it in 1887. Since that time numerous modifications and improvements have been put on the market, especially devices for catheterizing the ureters and a plan whereby the bladder can be irrigated to insure a clear medium.

In general cystoscopes are divided into the direct and indirect. In the former the prism is at the end of the tube, and one sees that part of the bladder in the direct line of the shaft; while in the

*Read at meeting of Ontario Medical Association, Niagara Falls, May-June, 1911.