

# Surgery.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF GEORGE E. ARMSTRONG.

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## **Castration and Vasectomy in Hypertrophy of the Prostate.**

J. WILLIAM WAITE. "The Results of Double Castration in Hypertrophy,"—*Annals of Surgery*, 1895, Vol. I., p. 1.

A. T. CABOT. "The Question of Castration for Enlarged Prostate."—*Annals of Surgery*, 1896 Vol. II., p. 265.

DISCUSSION ON THE SURGICAL TREATMENT OF PROSTATIC HYPERTROPHY.—By David Macewen, M.D.; Reginald Harrison, F.R.C.S.; C. W. Monsell Moullin, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S.; Dr. Sandberg; John Chiene, M.D.; F. A. Southam, F.R.C.S.; Charles A. Morton, F.R.C.S.; Jordan Lloyd, F.R.C.S.; J. Haddon, M.D., and J. H. Cameron, M.D.,—*British Medical Journal*, October 10, 1896.

The importance of the subject of enlarged prostate and its results, as manifested by the secondary changes which, in many cases, take place in the bladder, ureters, kidney and heart, gives great interest to any new suggestions as to treatment. Life is certainly shortened in a certain number of old men by the pathological effects of enlarged prostate. No man can have under observation an old man, with his pain, toxæmia and sleepless nights, without feeling himself stirred to do his best to find some means of relief.

The etiology of prostatic hypertrophy is still involved in obscurity. Dr. White thinks that the theory of Guyon that the disease is only a part of a constitutional condition peculiar to advancing years and characterized by arterial sclerosis, etc., and that of Harrison that the growth is compensatory in character and secondary to certain bladder changes to be untenable in the light of the information we now have. There seems to be some reason to think that it may be due to prolonged ungratified sexual desire. The function of the testes would seem to be twofold. (1) To control and determine the development of the characteristics of the male sex, and (2) to produce spermatozoa for the reproduction of the species.

Dr. D. Macewen thinks that in the performance of the first function, it is probable that a physiological product is formed, which becomes absorbed into the circulation and acts as a stimulant and