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Original Communications.

A Comparison of Lumbar and Inguinal Methods of Colostomy.

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COLOTOMY—or more properly colostomy—was first proposed by Littre in 1870. He suggested that the sigmoid flexure be opened by incision through the abdominal walls in the left inguinal region, but probably never performed the operation. In 1776 Pilloré opened the cæcum in the right inguinal region. In 1796 Callisen suggested that the colon be opened where it was not covered by peritoneum in the left lumbar region by a vertical incision. Amussat, a year later, performed the retro-peritoneal operation on the right side by a transverse incision. The present lumbar operation is a combination of the methods of Callisen and Amussat.

A few words as to the conditions calling for colotomy. Obstruction to the passage of fæces along the colon, such as cancer of the rectum, of the sigmoid flexure, or of any other part of the colon; tumours pressing on the bowel; fecal accumulations which cannot be