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Original Communications.

MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL.

OVARIOTOMY—RECOVERY.

By DR. WILKINS, Professor of Physiology, University of Bishop's College.

HISTORY.—Catherine B. McM.,—widow, aged 60, dressmaker, was first admitted into Hospital under my care on the 19th September, 1877. She has been pregnant ten times, has had two miscarriages, and also has had ten children in eight pregnancies (twins twice). Menstruation was always regular, commenced when she was fourteen years of age and lasted until she was forty-five, the menstrual flow lasting six or seven days. Since the birth of last child, twenty years ago, she says she noticed a lump in left side, but it is only within a year previous to her first entering hospital that it pained her, since which time it has grown very rapidly, so much so that respiration and progression were rendered very difficult. During the whole of this time she has had pain on defecation.

SYMPTOMS ON ADMISSION.—The abdomen is tense, and measures at its greatest circumference thirty-nine inches. A large hard mass can be felt occupying the lower part of abdominal cavity; a little to the left of this mass a cyst can be felt containing fluid. Per vaginam a semi-

fluctuating immoveable mass can be felt. Sound enters uterus three inches, passing directly forward. She suffers very much from frequency of micturition.

On consultation with other members of the Hospital staff, taking into consideration the rapid growth of the tumor latterly, and risk consequent in performing ovariectomy in a general hospital, it was considered advisable not to attempt to remove the tumor, but simply to relieve symptoms by paracentesis. Forty ounces of a dark grumous fluid were removed, affording very considerable relief to the patient, and in a few days she was dismissed.

About seven or eight months subsequent to her dismissal from Hospital she again consulted me, begging me to operate, no matter what the consequences might be, as she could not exist long in the condition in which she then was. She had a very haggard appearance, was very much wasted, and appeared to be suffering agony. I placed before her the extreme danger there was in such operations being performed in a general hospital. Notwithstanding this she still persisted in her request no matter what the consequences might be.

At my request the Committee of Management of the Hospital very kindly placed a private ward at my disposal. I had it thoroughly renovated, the floor and other woodwork washed