

CANADA

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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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*Gastrotoomy for the removal of Ovarian and other Tumors from the Abdominal Cavity.* By ROBERT NELSON, M.D., New York.

The operation of gastrotoomy may be needed for several purposes ; but principally for the removal of tumors situated within the peritoneal cavity. There are three kinds of tumor that particularly call for gastrotoomy ; and which, without this operation, end always in death : 1st. Ovarian tumors. 2nd. Fibrous out-growths from the uterus. 3rd. A fibro-adi-pose mass that may have its origin and seat between the layers of the broad ligament, or in the parenchyma of the ovary ; or in the annexes of these organs.

The *ovarian tumor* most frequently met with is the *mutilocular* variety, commonly called *ovarian dropsy*. It occurs between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five years, and thirty to sixty years ; that is, about the periods of nubility and its cessation. It consists of a general hypertrophy of all the tissues that constitute the ovary—its internal structure, its capsule or external coat, and the peritoneum that covers it. All these enlarge, not by stretching, but by growth. Within, it is made up of numerous cysts that vary in size from that of a currant to an orange, and some of them even to a sac capable of containing ten to fifteen pints of fluid. The smallest of these cysts are the newest, and are filled with a glutinous transparent fluid ; but that which is contained in the larger and older cysts is thick, ropy, opaque, and colored from light bluish to dark brown. Each cyst is lined with its own proper membrane, of a quasi mucous character, and they are separated from one another by intervening septa of cellular tissue, which tissue gives passage to the long slender and delicate vessels that supply the cysts. They are said to be graafian vesicles. They adhere to one another, and to the outward envelope when next to