

## Meetings of Medical Societies.

### HAMILTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY.

#### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING.

HAMILTON, Sept. 13th, 1886.

Dr. Stark, President, in the chair.

Dr. H. S. Griffin exhibited a specimen of cancer of the stomach from a negro woman, about 65 or 70 years of age. Had six or eight children, all of whom are dead. When Dr. Griffin first saw the patient she complained of a constant and troublesome spitting of water, which also escaped from the mouth during sleep; there was also regurgitation of fluids after drinking. Had been losing flesh rapidly; at one time raised a quantity of pus, about a pint.

*Post-mortem* revealed general thickening of the walls of the stomach. There was narrowing of the œsophagus near the cardiac orifice of the stomach, not a complete stricture. The only other abnormal condition found was some fibroid tumors of the uterus.

Dr. Mullin related a case of a woman who had been suffering for two or three years. At the time he saw her she had had no medical attendant for some months. On making an examination found two or three lumps in the right iliac region extending upwards, about twice as large as the thumb, and movable; could not be fixed, sometimes disappeared altogether.

*Post-mortem*—Stomach dilated, walls very thin; the greater curvature reached as far as the umbilicus. There was much thickening of the pyloric extremity of the stomach, the orifice would only admit a small catheter. There was no evidence of secondary deposit in any other organ.

The descending colon had a mesocolon fully six inches in length, and the bowel was loose and floating, a condition which would have rendered the operation of colotomy difficult, if not dangerous. The uterus was exhibited; the right ovary was normal, the left had remains of a cyst which had collapsed. A band extended from the omentum near the transverse colon about the situation of the pyloric orifice of the stomach, looped around the head of the ascending colon and cæcum, and passed over

to the left ovary, where it was attached, forming nearly a half-circle. The tumors or lumps above-mentioned are supposed to have been formed by this band retaining fæces in the intestines; at times being movable and then disappearing, as stated above, on examination.

A committee consisting of Drs. Malloch, Mullin, Macdonald, White, Leslie, and Griffin, was appointed to report on the pollution of the waters of the bay by sewage, and the best remedy for the evil.

F. E. WOOLVERTON, *Sec.-Treas.*

## Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN PRACTITIONER.

### VIENNA CORRESPONDENCE.

I purpose presenting to the readers of the CANADIAN PRACTITIONER, as briefly as possible in this letter, a few facts concerning Vienna as a surgical centre. Any one who has thought over the subject must feel that, for the proper study of surgery, we must have first, material; second, a well organized system of utilizing material for teaching purposes; and, third, teachers. A few words, then, on each of these points.

*Material*.—One of the crying needs of our Canadian, and I think I may safely say American, surgical education, is more material for anatomical and operative study and practice. It is a shame to send young men out licensed to operate on living men, to whom the material has never been supplied, and by whom it has been practically unattainable for practicing on the dead subject, at least, the operations most needed in the ordinary routine of a general practitioner's life. In Vienna this need is fortunately not felt; for here that sort of material is most abundantly supplied. Private courses in operative surgery are going on here continually, and any man wishing it can, at moderate cost, have daily two hours of practical work in the operating room with plenty of material, well kept instruments, and with careful and watchful teaching from men whose operative skill, whose breadth and minuteness of surgical knowledge, is, to an honest and attentive student, a perfect surprise. The leading