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Original Contributions.

OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF ASCITES DUE TO CIRRHOSIS OF LIVER, BY IMPLANTATION OF THE OMENTUM INTO THE ABDOMINAL WALL.*

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THE treatment of ascites due to cirrhosis of the liver by surgical measures constitutes one of the most recent instances in which the surgeon seems to have invaded the domain of the physician. The operation as now performed is based upon observations which were made originally by Talma of Utrecht, and were subsequently acted upon first in Holland in 1889 by Van der Meule, by Schelkly in 1891, and by Lens in 1892. None of these cases, however, lent much encouragement to the idea, as they all died uncured of the ascites. In 1894 Drummond and Morison claim to have independently conceived of the same idea as that which was described by Talma, and operated upon two cases, in one of which a brilliant result was achieved. Since the publication of the paper by Drummond and Morison in the *British Medical Journal* of September 19th, 1896, numerous operators in Great Britain, on the Continent, in America, and in Canada, have practised the operation with widely varying results, but on the whole with such a degree of success as to encourage further efforts. In a very able and comprehensive paper published in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* for March, 1901, Packard and Le Conte have collected and collated twenty-two cases, and numerous cases are scattered throughout medical literature subsequent to that date.

* Read before the Ontario Medical Association, June, 1902.