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Original Memoirs

*OBSTETRICS, GYNAECOLOGY AND ABDOMINAL SURGERY

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Obstetrics as a science and art has a fairly definite entity, and includes the management of pregnancy, labor, and the puerperal state. Gynæcology cannot be so easily defined because many gynæcologists practise also abdominal surgery. The tendency in certain quarters is to include abdominal and pelvic surgery under general surgery, and, it may be, that the pure gynæcologist will soon pass out of existence. In any case, however, those who pay special attention to midwifery and diseases of women will always take a deep interest in abdominal surgery which is accomplishing brilliant results.

The whole world is at present much interested in acute "septic peritonitis." Many of you will remember a paper on that subject by Dr. James F. W. Ross, two years ago, at Montreal; many of you will also remember another paper read by Dr. George Bingham, last year, at the meeting of the Saskatchewan Medical Association. Dr. Deaver, of Philadelphia, read a paper on the same subject at the last meeting of the Ontario Medical Association held in Toronto, June 7 of this

*Opening address at the Section in Obstetrics and Gynaecology delivered at the meeting of the Canadian Medical Association, Winnipeg, August 23rd, 1909.