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U. OGDEN, M.D.,
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A. H. WRIGHT, B.A., M.B., M.R.C.S., Eng., } Editors.
I. H. CAMERON, M.B., }

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All literary communications and Exchanges should be addressed to Dr. CAMERON, 144 Duke Street.
All business communications and remittances should be addressed to Dr. WRIGHT, 312 Jarvis Street.

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Original Communications.

CLINICAL LECTURE ON IDIOPATHIC OR PERNICIOUS ANÆMIA.*

BY WILLIAM OSLER, M.D., M.R.C.P., LOND.,
Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, McGill College.

(Delivered at the Montreal General Hospital in the Summer
Session Course, April 14th).

Gentlemen,—The patient before you offers an example of that interesting disease described by Addison, in 1855, as "Idiopathic" Anæmia. Biermer, in 1872, thought he had discovered a new affection, and gave it the title of "Progressive Pernicious Anæmia." Lebert gave to it the name of "Essential," and you will find it described under one of these three terms. Here, in Montreal, we have been made familiar with it by the labours of Dr. Howard, your Professor of Medicine, whose paper, before the International Medical Congress, held at Philadelphia in 1876, was one of the earliest and most important of the recent contributions to the subject. Owing to his kindness, and that of several of my colleagues, I have had opportunities of investigating certain points in connection with the pathology of the disease, particularly with reference to the state of the blood and the bone marrow.†

The history of the case is as follows:—

Thomas W —, aged 47, a well-built Englishman, was admitted under the care of Dr. Ross,

* Reported by Mr. T. W. Duncan, and revised by Dr. Osler.

† *Canada Medical and Surgical Journal*, March, 1877; *Transactions of the Canada Medical Association*, 1877; *Centralblatt, f. d. Medicin Wissenschaften*. Nos. 15 and 28, 1877, Berlin; *Centralblatt, f. d. Medicin Wissenschaften*. No. 26, 1878.

on January 19th, transferred to my charge on the 1st of April. He was a bricklayer by trade, but served for twelve years in the army, and was through the Crimean War. For the past two years he has been a baggage-man at the Railway station. He has always enjoyed good health, has never had ague, though he resided for some time in a malarial district. He is a married man, has four children; has not had any special domestic or mental trouble. Up to August, 1877, he enjoyed good health; but about this time he began to feel weak and lost colour. He fainted on several occasions, and had attacks of bleeding at the nose. In January, 1878, he entered the hospital, and remained three months—his symptoms being anæmia, without any recognizable cause, weakness, swelling of the ankles and retinal hæmorrhages. He improved very much, and in a couple of months after leaving the Hospital, was able to work, though pale and weak. Through the years 1879 and 80, he followed his occupation, but never regained his former strength or colour. There appear to have been slight digestive troubles as he has not been able to eat meat.

In August last his wife was confined and was very ill afterwards. Attendance upon her and anxiety brought on the old symptoms, and when he entered the hospital, on January 19th, he was exceedingly weak and pale; had headaches, bleeding at the nose and dizziness when standing. These symptoms have continued with occasional intermission up to the present date. On several occasions the bleedings were severe, lasting once for nearly twelve hours; the blood coming drop by drop from the right nostril. The temperature was usually normal,