

CANADA

MEDICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. I.

MONTREAL: APRIL, 1852.

No. 2.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ART. VI.—*Cases of Hernia, with observations on wounds of the Intestines.* By WOLFRED NELSON, M. D., &c., Provincial Inspector of Prisons, &c., &c.

SHOULD the following narrative of a case of Hernia be deemed worthy of record in your Journal, it is quite at your service. It appears to me to possess some interesting features, and may not be entirely unworthy of the notice of your readers. It has made an indelible impression on my mind, and has led me to pay more attention to this part of surgery than any ordinary case of strangulated bowel would have done.

In the month of March, 1811, I was requested to see a man 60 years of age, who was reported to be at the point of death. "He was just brought in from the sugar bush, where, for the last two days, he had suffered violent pains in the belly; could not go to stool, and was incessantly vomiting, and withal, had a large swelling at the bottom of the body." From this brief detail, I at once inferred the existence of strangulated scrotal hernia. I found the man cold, bathed in a profuse clammy perspiration, with constant hiccup, very weak, and almost pulseless. He had for many years been affected with a scrotal hernia, and now it was the size of a quart decanter. After administering a large dose of laudanum and ammonia, and waiting some time for its anodyne effect, I proceeded with the utmost caution to reduce it by the taxis; but my efforts, though at first gentle, then, more forcible and persevering, proved ineffectual. He was then told, that the only chance for his life was through the means of an operation. This was at once submitted to. An incision was made a short distance from above the protrusion, and carried down to near the bottom of the scrotum, at least seven inches long; after a little careful dissection, the sac was punctured,