

CANADA

MEDICAL & SURGICAL JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER, 1884.

Original Communications.

ADDRESS ON ABDOMINAL SURGERY.

By LAWSON TAIT, F.R.C.S., ENG. & EDIN.

(Delivered before the Canada Medical Association, Montreal, Aug. 26th, 1884.)

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—Every gardener knows that a plant long grown on the same soil rises or sinks, or, somehow or other, gets to a level from which it varies not so long as its conditions remain the same, and he knows as well that if he takes that plant to a new soil which suits it—if he grows it under new conditions—its growth, change and development are practically endless. What we know of plants is, within limits, true of humanity; and if we require proof and illustration of this, where need we go but to this endless continent of yours.

I am not at present concerned with natural boundaries created by languages which come from Sweden and Poland, Denmark and Scotland, Russia and Ireland, which temporarily limit intercourse between different peoples who perhaps settled here. Still less do I trouble about a line on the map which marks a practical Republic on the south from a splendid Democracy on the north. I have only to do with the great fact of human history—I think the greatest fact—that from out of the troubles and distresses of our eastern countries, or out of countries oppressed by overpopulation, and still more by the effete policies of governments of past centuries dislocated into modern life, from these there has come a great country and a great people, whose growth, change and development promise to be practically endless.