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ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

(No paper published or to be published elsewhere as original, will be accepted in this department.)

CHOLELITHOTOMY, WITH CHOLE-DUODENOSTOMY FOR THE RELIEF OF JAUNDICE DUE TO IMPACTED GALL STONES.*

BY ALBERT A. MACDONALD, M.D., TORONTO.

That cholelithians may exist for an indefinite period without giving rise to any symptoms capable of leading to a diagnosis of the exact condition, is a fact which is commonly recognized by those who are engaged in making *post mortem* examinations. But when incarceration of gall stone, or stones, takes place in the common duct, a number of symptoms are produced, and definite diseased conditions follow, which give rise to so much pain and peril to life that our aid is sought for relief.

Treatment of such cases has not been completely satisfactory, for whilst it is true that a certain amount of palliation may follow some plans of medical treatment, we are not aware of any remedies which can produce uniformly good results. Surgical treatment has been both harsh and unsatisfactory until within the last few years, when the efforts of some surgeons seem to give grounds for the hope that an unscientific operation may give place to one which will prove alike scientific, practical and satisfactory. Chronic jaundice, depending as it does upon some interference with the flow of bile, may be said to be caused either by pressure from without, by a tumor, impacted stones, stricture of the duct, or an abscess.

"In the cystic duct and in the common duct, stones are present in from 4 to 13 per cent. of the cases, whilst in the hepatic duct they are only found in from three-tenths of 1 per cent. to 1 per cent of the cases."—C. T. PARKER.

From impaction of stones, either choicæmia, with its attendant symptoms of degeneration, hæmorrhages, coma, and death must result, or perforative peritonitis may take place and so hasten the end.

Diagnosis of the exact cause of continued jaundice is only possible when the greatest care is taken to obtain the fullest history of the case, and to weigh every sign

* Read at meeting of Ontario Medical Association, June, 1893.