

CANADA

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

A Case of General Cystic Degeneration of the Kidneys. By JOHN REDDY, M.D., L.R.C.S.I., &c.; Physician to the Montreal Hospital.

(Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal.)

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN: I wish to bring before the notice of this Society the history of a very interesting case which has been lately under my care, and which presented many features of much interest, especially in a diagnostic point of view, showing the difficulties that frequently surround the observer's path, even where the greatest care may have been taken.

On the 25th October, 1872, I was sent for by an old patient of mine, Mrs. P., aged 43, five feet ten inches high, of large make, who gave me the following history of herself: Prior to October, 1871, she had been in the enjoyment of good health, weighing 285 pounds. After this period her health began to decline, and she experienced occasional uneasy sensations in her left side, but never of a painful character; her appetite was capricious and her strength below par; she slept well, however, but often felt unrefreshed and tired in the morning; her bowels, at this time, were unusually costive, but easily regulated by the use of fruit and other diet of a laxative character, her urine was occasionally very dark in colour, but never deficient in quantity; catamenial periods regular; she was able to take plenty of out-door exercise in cabs or sleighs, but walking fatigued her, especially going up or down stairs; she was much astonished to find that at the end of six months she had lost 65 pounds of her weight; she then consulted a physician of this city, about May or June, who, she told me, discovered a tumour in her left side, and who treated her for a short time and then ordered her change of air to the sea-side, whither she went. After remaining there for some time without experiencing any decided benefit, and also feeling troubled, for the first time, with a pain of a dull, aching character in the left