

reduced in flesh and strength, was first seen by me on the 1st May, 1867, when she gave the following history of her case.

She is 45 years of age, and had always enjoyed good health until about six months ago. She was married at the age of 20, and has had two children; the eldest daughter still living, the youngest died when 18 months old, of measles. Her labours were easy and without complication. The catamenia continued regular until about two years ago, when they ceased. In November last (1866) she first began to feel ill, complaining of severe pain in the lower part of the abdomen, which she ascribed to cold and over exertion. She had been a hard working woman all her life, but particularly so since she came to Canada, about two years ago. The pain continued more or less until Christmas, when, for the first time, a small firm tumor could be felt low down on the right side. Its increase was most rapid, so much so, that she had to be tapped by the end of February, 1867. The tumor was, however, but little decreased by the operation, as two quarts only of very thick fluid came away.

May 1st, 1867. At the present time the tumor fills the whole of the abdomen, three cysts being distinctly made out. She is unable to lie down, and her respiration is difficult. Pulse 92, small and weak, tongue moist and red, stomach irritable, bowels regular, and her urine is voided with difficulty in consequence of severe pressure. A few doses of soda, rhubarb, and Dover's powder were given night and morning, from which she derived benefit, as the stomach and bowels soon regained their ordinary tone. The case having been diagnosed as one of poly-cystic ovarian disease, the question was, whether, in the reduced and enfeebled state of the system, an operation was justifiable or not? All the medical men present agreed that as she must sink under the disease in a very short time, and that an operation held out a forlorn hope by which her life might be saved, although the chances were very much against her, yet the attempt should be made, and urged by the solicitations of her daughter and herself, I consented to operate.

May 9th, 1867. The operation was performed to-day at the Toronto General Hospital, assisted by Drs. Beaumont, Bethune, Aikins, Wright, and Hampton, several military medical men being also present. A small incision about three inches in length was made a little below the umbilicus, and after dividing