

into the bladder and a small one into the cave of Retzius. Experience shows that the incision heals by first intention down to the drainage-tube, and any risk of hernia developing is slight.

The Modified Thomson-Walker Operation.

The operation is similar to the one last described, except that little or no suturing is done of the edge of the prostatic cavity, it being argued that this step is not always necessary, prolongs the operation, is sometimes very difficult to do, and the stitching itself may cause bleeding.

The results of the two operations must decide as to which is the better. A comparison of a series of cases shows that those in which the suturing is not done undoubtedly bleed much more. For although there may be little bleeding to see at the conclusion of the operation, when the patient is shocked and under the influence of the anæsthetic, yet there is often considerable bleeding during the next few days.

It has been stated that it does good to a number of these elderly men to let them bleed. But that this is an undoubted fallacy can readily be seen by comparing the convalescence of those patients treated by the Thomson-Walker operation and those left to bleed.

Bilateral vasectomy is carried out just below the external abdominal ring. This operation is easily done, takes very little time, and is a certain guarantee against that troublesome after-complication of epididymo-orchitis.

It seems a great pity that this very satisfactory procedure has not obtained in this country the widespread popularity which it enjoys in France.

No reference has been made to one- and two-stage operations; the general rule at St. Peter's Hospital being to do a one-stage whenever possible, the chief guides being the patient's clinical condition and a urine yielding at least 1 per cent. of urea in the Maclean urea concentration test.

Operation for Carcinoma of the Prostate.(2)

This operation has been recently elaborated for early cases. As a rule the patients are only seen in the later stages, when the choice of treatment lies between catheter life or permanent suprapubic drainage.

Briefly the operation may be described as follows: The bladder is opened and a Thomson-Walker retractor inserted. With a knife an incision is made through the bladder mucous membrane round the internal meatus, and corresponding to the anterior and lateral borders of the prostate, but extending in the mid-line back to the interureteric bar. The prostate is now enucleated by dissection and partly by the finger, but posteriorly it is

left hinged to the seminal vesicles. A dissection is now done of the seminal vesicles, which are then removed intact with their sheaths along with the attached prostate, and the bladder mucous membrane overlying it.

Two of the routes of the direct spread of carcinoma of the prostate are to the overlying bladder mucous membrane and to the sheaths of the seminal vesicles.

Hence it is hoped by this more radical operation to obtain better results in early cases.

I wish to acknowledge my great indebtedness to the surgeons of St. Peter's Hospital, also to express my thanks to them for permission to publish this paper.

REFERENCES.

(1) *Brit. Med. Journ.*, Aug. 27th, 1921; *Lancet*, 1921, p. 1008.

(2) For fuller account of more extensive operation, see Clifford Morson, *Proc. Roy. Soc. Med.*, 1924, vol. xvii (Section of Urology), pp. 43-52.

See also Thomson-Walker, "Transvesical Vesiculectomy and Vesiculectomy," Second Congress of Internat. Soc. Urology (1st vol.), Rome, April 24th-26th, 1924.

J. LLEWELLYN DAVIES.

OBITUARY.

DR. HOWARD TOOTH.

DR. HOWARD TOOTH was born at Brighton in 1856 and was at Rugby School and St. John's College, Cambridge, before he came to St. Bartholomew's. He qualified in 1880, and, after serving as House-Physician, he became Casualty Physician and Demonstrator of Physiology. After finishing these appointments he was for a time without any post at St. Bartholomew's, but, as soon as an opportunity served, he was appointed Demonstrator of Morbid Anatomy, and subsequently, in 1897, Assistant Physician, becoming full Physician in 1906. It was during the period before he became Assistant Physician that he was attracted to the study of diseases of the nervous system, and became a physician to the Queen Square Hospital; and it was in this period also that he was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in the year 1888, and gave the Goulstonian Lectures on "Secondary Degenerations of the Spinal Cord." It was, indeed, very largely due to the reputation he had acquired as a most capable investigator of nervous diseases that he was gladly welcomed as a member of the permanent staff of our School, and it is very certain that we were

fortunate in securing his services for a long period of years.

The characteristic qualities of Tooth's work were the extraordinary patience and thoroughness with which he investigated all his cases, and the sympathy and desire to help which were always in evidence. It was these qualities which made him so successful both as a general physician and as a consultant in nervous diseases.

to serve in the Field was named the "Portland Hospital," and three of its medical and surgical staff (including the writer) were drawn from St. Bartholomew's. It came into being very soon after the war began, and when it arrived at the Cape it was found that Tooth was the only "consulting physician" attached to the Forces; and as a result his services were in constant demand. The Hospital was first pitched ten miles from Cape Town, but soon moved up to a camp outside Bloemfontein, and



THE LATE DR. HOWARD TOOTH, C.B., F.R.C.P.

It is not necessary to enumerate his various medical writings, but mention must be made of his address on "The Growth and Survival Period of Intracranial Tumours," delivered when he was President of the Neurological Society in 1912. This is justly looked upon as the most authoritative contribution yet made to this difficult subject, and the investigation of the records of 500 cases occupied all his spare time for two years or more.

A very important part of Tooth's life work was to be found in his association with the Army, which began with the Boer War in 1899. The first Civilian Hospital

Tooth was almost swamped by the enteric cases under his own care as well as by those he saw in consultation in many other units. But in spite of the sickness in the Army, and, especially when the health of the troops improved, Tooth thoroughly enjoyed the open-air life of a tented camp and the constant sunshine of the veld. He was also *persona grata* to all the officers of the R.A.M.C., and very popular wherever he went.

After the Boer War he joined the London University O.T.C., and was called upon to serve on a committee for the re-organization of the Army Medical Service; and the R.A.M.C. would all acknowledge that the

recommendations of this committee proved the basis of the most important reforms and improvements in this branch of the service.

It very naturally resulted that when the Great War broke out Tooth was again called upon to serve, and was very soon appointed to command our own War Hospital, namely, the "First London General Hospital," at Camberwell. In this position he was a conspicuous success, but, nevertheless, was not satisfied unless he could serve overseas, and, before long, his wish was gratified, and he went to Malta as a consulting physician. Here he remained to the great advantage of a large number of soldier patients till the latter part of 1917, when he was transferred, at his own desire, to Italy, and served in the casualty clearing stations and in the hospitals on the Riviera. Unfortunately, whilst on duty here, he became ill, and, much against his will, was invalided to England in the summer of 1918, and so was unable to see the war to its end. His fine service was recognized by three mentions in despatches, the award of the "C.B." and the conferring by the University of Malta of the degree of "M.D.Hon.Causa," whilst many of his friends felt that still higher honours might well have been accorded him.

At St. Bartholomew's Hospital Tooth was an ideal colleague and one who always kept in mind what was best for the Hospital and School. Twenty or more years ago, when the Hospital entered upon its career of expansion, it was he who acted as secretary to the Medical Council and served on every one of the various sub-committees and in numberless consultations with the Hospital Governors. As a teacher in the Medical School he was as careful and conscientious as in everything that he did. He loved to be with young people, and his pupils quickly realized that he was a lenient critic of their clinical efforts and their guide and friend in the out-patient room or the medical ward.

He was always fond of teaching, and from the time that he taught physiology he was popular with all his pupils and was always most good-tempered and patient in explaining and smoothing over difficulties. As a consultant he was so transparently honest and keen to get to the bottom of things that he quickly won the confidence of his patients, both in hospital and in private practice, and was universally recognized as one of the very best opinions on diseases of the nervous system.

For many years he was an enthusiastic cyclist, and on several occasions rode to the north of Scotland and back during his summer holidays. He was also fond of fishing as an out-door pursuit, and played the violin, and was one of the founders of the Hospital Musical Society. At home he spent much of his spare time in

his carpenter's shop, and he became a very skilled worker both in wood and in metal.

After leaving London for Hadleigh, in Suffolk, he accepted an appointment at Ipswich of a Clinic for Nervous Diseases under the Pensions Ministry, and took the keenest interest in his work in spite of failing health. He led a most active and useful life and was always happiest when fully occupied, for he was one of those men who are never idle.

ATHLETIC CLUB.

THE Annual Athletic Sports were held on Saturday, May 2nd, at Winchmore Hill. Entries on the whole were more encouraging than in past years, and some good racing was witnessed. The times and performances, considering the sodden



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nature of the track, were excellent. Some useful new talent was unearthed, and the team this year should be much stronger than for the past few years.

In the absence of the President, Dr. Morley Fletcher,