

D. A. SHIRRES, M.D. I certainly agree with Dr. Russell that we get an ascending neuritis quite frequently; we have always three or four cases in the course of the year, but they are usually not traumatic, that is very common, but in the case like that of a splint I cannot think of any septic condition being present which would be a cause. It is an established fact that degeneration not only goes downwards but it may go upwards, as Professor Mills states. In the case of the man with the leg removed we found the cells in the anterior column of the spine degenerated. I am probably optimistic in regard to the value of electrical treatment by galvanism in peripheral diseases, and only recently a well known surgeon told a patient of mine that "it was no use," but that patient was soon able to prove to him that it had been of great value, and these cases I show to-night are a pretty positive demonstration of its value.

W. GRANT STEWART, M.D. We are indebted to Dr. Shirres for bringing this very valuable series to show us to-night. I think we all learn a great deal from seeing the actual cases, and we have to thank Dr. Shirres for the trouble he has taken to show these interesting cases.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS' ADVANCE IN ABDOMINAL SURGERY.

A. LAPHORN SMITH, M.D., read the paper of the evening.

A. L. C. GILDAY, M.D. There have been great advances in abdominal surgery, as everyone knows, even during the last ten years. One of the striking things is the large proportion of cases with small hæmorrhage. We used to see operations where two or three assistants were kept busy with sponges swabbing up the blood while the operator was looking for arteries which he had lost sight of, and which had been cut. Now the arteries are tied before they are cut and that is one of the advances. Another thing is the improvement in the operating room, the long sleeved gowns, rubber gloves, etc., which are all sterilized. But I still think that we are only at the beginning of our operative work, and the knowledge which we have attained will be materially added to in the next ten years.

WESLEY MILLS, M.D. I have listened to Dr. Smith in this Society for the past twenty-five years, and I do not know that during that time I have ever heard him give as condensed, as pregnant, or as wholly satisfactory an address as this. I have not always been able to agree with Dr. Smith, but to-night I am sure we are all pleased with the way he has presented this subject, so simply, without undue use of technical terms, and following general principles. I think, perhaps, Dr. Smith has a little over-stated ~~some~~ things. For instance, I would not like to be operated on out in the snow. I have always felt that one of my great-