

record is not creditable to us. We should not merely be content that our patients recover, we should be seriously concerned as to *how* they recover. And surely if a little timely care and attention will secure them comparative immunity from distressing ailments which render life a burden, it is our bounden duty as humane men and intelligent physicians to realise our responsibilities and adopt every reasonable precaution.

APPENDICITIS.*

BY GEORGE E. ARMSTRONG, M.D., MONTREAL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—During the past few years the attention of the profession has been directed to that morbid condition which for a long time has been designated by the term typhlitis, with one or two prefixes suggested by Musser. Able original articles have appeared from the pens of Treves, Fitz, Weir, McBurney, Senn, Bull, and others, which have thrown much light on its pathology, morbid anatomy, and etiology. Numerous cases have also been reported by practitioners in different parts of the country. Notwithstanding, there is still a considerable difference of opinion among representative surgeons in regard to several points in connection, chiefly, with the diagnosis and treatment, especially on that all-important question, the time to operate. And among general practitioners I fear there exists still more vagueness which might with profit to doctor and patient be cleared up. When so important a subject as appendicitis and its sequelæ occupies this doubtful position—a condition which calls for the most acute medical and surgical skill, and one that needs to be approached in the most prompt and decided manner—I think it proper that all those having any experience in it should bring it forward and pool it, so to speak, that all the evidence from all possible sources bearing on this malady may be analysed, sifted and arranged until more certain and definite data and guides are established, to enable us all to meet these cases and bring a larger proportion of them than at present to a successful issue.

* Read before the Canadian Medical Association, at Toronto, September, 1890.