

early symptom. In a majority the duration of life from the onset of symptoms was less than twelve months. Of 128 patients submitted to operations other than exploratory (gastro-enterostomy, gastrostomy, gastrectomy), not one was living at the time of the analysis. Dr. Friedenwald, therefore, urges earlier exploration, recognizing the desperate nature of the malady and the hopelessness of the prospect in cases where the diagnosis has become apparent from clinical symptoms alone.—*The Lancet*.

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### THE BELGIAN PHYSICIAN

Our Belgian confrères are undergoing trials that no language can even approximately describe. In a few months they have seen their country transformed from a land of peaceful pursuits and prosperous homes into one of chaos and bereavement. Opinions as to the cause of the present war may differ greatly; views in regard to the way in which it is being prosecuted may be widely divergent; but there are few honest, conscientious men who will not agree that the world has seen few sadder spectacles than the devastation of Belgium. Surely if any people have known the acme of misery it is the Belgians. Helpless, forlorn and sick with their sorrows, starvation and cold are all that confront these hopeless people unless the neutral nations of the world give bountifully—and quickly. The movement already under way looking toward immediate relief for this stricken nation is the one bright spot in the situation.

The medical men of Belgium have suffered no less severely than the rest of their countrymen. They are destitute, with their homes, equipment, libraries, everything destroyed and lost. At any rate, the hunger and cold that confront the great mass of the people also confront the doctors. Many have families dependent on them, so their anxiety and anguish as well as their physical distress can easily be imagined.

The plight, therefore, of the physicians of Belgium is terrible indeed. Unless steps are taken at once to relieve their condition, a few short weeks are certain to witness scenes of suffering among our Belgian colleagues that will beggar description.

It has been suggested to us from several sources that *American Medicine* should undertake the collection of a fund for the physicians of this stricken country. We have yielded to the requests of many interested friends and will undertake the collection of an American Fund for Belgian Physicians.