

Duration of Disease at the Time of Operation

Day of Disease	No. of Cases	Died	Mortality Per Cent.	Combined Statistics	No. of Cases	Died	Mortality Per Cent.
1	135	5	3.7	On or before the second day	280	14	5.0
2	145	9	6.2				
3	103	8	7.7	From the third to the sixth day inclusive	251	32	12.7
4	72	13	18.0				
5	55	8	14.5				
6	21	3	14.2				
7	48	10	20.8	From the seventh to the tenth day inclusive	79	16	20.2
8	11	2	18.1				
9	5	1	20.0				
10	15	3	20.0	From the tenth to the fourteenth day inclusive	52	8	15.3
11	4	1	25.0				
12	5	1	20.0				
13	1	0	.0				
14	27	3	11.1				
17	1	0	.0	All acute cases operated upon after the sixth day	156	21	13.4
21	5	0	.0				
Data Missing	34	1	.0				
Totals	687	68	9.8				

Our own statistics would conform very closely with the above, and the fact is generally recognized that the mortality increases with delay; yet this fact is not appreciated in its full significance, otherwise there would not continue to be so much delay in calling in the services of a surgeon. As already stated, the physician is naturally guided by his own experience, but we insist that the results of surgery must always be more conclusive because of the larger opportunities afforded for the study of the harmful effects of delay. A physician may carry a large number of cases through successfully without operation and may even be fortunate enough to have his late cases recover after a delayed operation, but the results of surgery show that he is courting disaster and will sooner or later come to realize by sad experience that the risk he is running is quite unjustifiable. In reviewing one's own records one finds that the harmful effects of delay are demonstrated in a variety of ways. Abscess formation frequently occurs with long continued suppuration and persisting sinuses which after final closure leave a weak abdominal wall requiring repair for "post-operative rupture." One very common and fatal complication in delayed cases is perforation, and one may pause to enquire if it is possible to anticipate such a disastrous occurrence. The fact is, perforation occurs often in the most unexpected circumstances. A patient may have what