

ous one. In point of fact, the mortality is less than in diseases which are not feared at all; measles, for instance, or whooping-cough. Could we implant that fact in the public mind and get all our appendicitis cases early, instead of at the last development, as many of them now come to us, we could reduce the present low mortality by half. The policy of silence is a relic. It was made for the days when a physician who talked exposed his ignorance. Surgery is no longer empiric; we know what we are doing and we can afford to tell it."

The article, however, closes with this quotation from Senn:

"We have waded through the slough of fads. We have left behind us such errors as opening the skull for idiocy, and in hundreds of insane asylums the needless victims of our rage for ovariectomy mark the path by which we have come back to rational methods in gynecology. There are still many who, led into surgery by the hope of rich rewards, have had no time to learn its scientific principles. Brilliant operators, they diagnose with the knife. Remember this: That, with rare exceptions, the knife should never be taken up until the trouble is determined. The time for conservatism has come. We are here to assist nature, not to dictate. The great art of modern surgery is to limit operations to the cases where they can be of benefit."

We have made these excerpts for the purpose of bringing into closer juxtaposition and contrast illustrations of the newspaper man's idea of logic. "*The knife should never be taken up until the trouble is determined,*" is set side by side with the appeal, real or supposed, to the lay public to decide itself when to come to the operating surgeon! The diagnostician, the internist, and the family physician are therefore to be dispensed with? According to the magazine writer the "trouble is to be determined" solely by the patient and his lay friends, educated by those surgeons who make "more or less open," but "good use of the public press." It is evidently a fitting opportunity for the surgeons to disclaim the injudicious zeal of the reporters.—*American Medicine.*