

peritoneal abscess containing an ounce of pus ; that the plastic wall of this abscess had given way at its superior point, a fulminating general peritonitis being instantly lighted up. The rupture was at the distal end of the appendix, which was gangrenous."

"G. B., aged 30, salesman, strong and active, had had occasional attacks of pain in the abdomen lasting for a few hours. He was seized last February, in the morning, with severe pain in the lower abdomen, and went home and to bed. By evening his temperature was 104.5°F. ; then he discovered that the pain, which had continued to some degree all through the day, was most intense in the right iliac region. His bowels were moved by an enema. I saw him first at this time and found tumefaction and dulness in the cæcal region with the slightest possible tenderness ; next day and the day after, the evidence of tumor was greater than at this time, the tenderness being reduced. The second day of attendance the temperature was over 103°F., the third day 102°, and the day following 99°, from which time convalescence was rapid, and he was out in a week from the onset. The pulse was at no time much above 100, and the respiration was not accelerated ; there was no diarrhoea and the patient was tranquil in mind."

It will be seen that the temperature rapidly fell after the third day of the sickness ; with its fall the evidence of tumor rapidly disappeared. In this case tumefaction and dulness on percussion were marked in the cæcal region, and entirely disappeared with recovery, and there was never any notable tenderness. In the case of D. F. G., clinical evidence of tumor was slight, but during the first week there was constantly more or less tenderness, a symptom we now know as some indication for surgical relief.

5. Surgery is justifiable in all cases of undoubted chronic appendicitis with occasional exacerbations even if no induration is present. In all such cases we cannot doubt that the patient is in constant danger of perforation of the appendix and mortal peritonitis or perityphlitis—a danger greater than that involved in an antiseptically done laparotomy and extirpation of the little organ entire.