

should have had a suspicion that there was something more, and try to find it. I think it is quite possible that in that case we might have found in the pelvis or somewhere a collection of pus which, if had it been removed, might have had the effect of saving the girl's life. Another point, and I will have done; it is a very nice subject, and once you get a surgeon started on it, it is hard to stop him. It is a subject on which the surgeon is mostly always wound up. One other point I want to make here, and that is the danger of the exploring needle or aspirator. I think we might almost say now that the aspirator has outlived its usefulness. I know very few cases in abdominal surgery where the aspirator is required. I have seen very sad cases, indeed, where great injury has been done by it. First, by the injury it involves; second, by sepsis; and, thirdly, by the incomplete diagnosis. There may be cases where you may empty an abscess by the aspirator successfully, but they are exceedingly rare. They generally leave enough behind to insure further trouble. At all events, as far as appendicitis is concerned, it is a paltering palliative and ineffectual mode of dealing with it. Either do one of two things—trust to nature and general treatment, or explore the abdomen and make a thorough, complete, and scientific operation.

Dr. Hill: This interesting discussion has opened my memory, and I recollect a case that I was attending at Brighton, England, years ago, of a young lady who was suffering from appendicitis. There was constipation, and when that was overcome she voided no less than eight plum-stones. She had eaten plum-jam eight weeks previously.

#### DISCUSSION ON CHOLERA.

The president, Dr. Bray: We have the Minister of Agriculture here, and I would ask now that Dr. Bryce come forward and open the discussion on cholera. The Hon. Mr. Carling does not wish to make any remarks now, but will do so afterwards.

Dr. Bryce said: Gentlemen, I have only to remind you that it is not six weeks yet since we had an official notice of cholera being present in Hamburg; that we have seen cholera brought from that point to England and to a United States port, endangering our own various localities to an extent which has created an extreme interest, which epidemics of cholera invariably have done since their first appearance here in 1832. In the limited time at my disposal, I shall only refer to two particular portions of the question of "What has this continent to do to protect itself against cholera?" You will remember that the International Conference is simply a meeting of executive officers, and that after the deliberation the president selected a commission of some seven gentlemen, four of whom made the eastern trip to inquire exactly into the border defences against the introduction of the disease to this continent. We started about the first of this month, and visited the Grosse Isle quarantine, and from thence, the day after the disease appeared in New York, we hurried as rapidly as possible to New York harbor, and there saw what all of you have read about, the detention of thousands of passengers in the middle of the harbor on infected ships. We went from that point to Boston, to Portland, to St. John, and Halifax, and back

again to Philadelphia and Washington. I may state the general conclusions arrived at by the commission. I may say in brief that we have found this—that, assuming the disease to be brought to this continent in ships, there is a great lack at all points generally of provision for the removal of the healthy from infected ships. That is the very thing we found in New York harbor, and it seemed to us absolutely inhuman to see the large ocean ships, with hundreds of valuable lives upon them, lying there for nearly two weeks exposed every day, in most cases, to the sick, through the crew, stewards, etc., passing through the ship continually. The first thing we said was, "Get these people off the ships." It was finally done, but after great difficulty. At Boston the station had good places to take passengers to; but this brings up the next point, viz., the insufficiency of means to remove passengers from the infected ships.

At our own stations, Grosse Isle and Halifax, and others, this was noticed just as at New York, where there were thousands on the ships lying in the harbor. We likewise concluded that at all points where immigrants are received there must be means for immediate removal to islands, if islands are used for quarantine stations. The next danger is that at New York—it is not so now at Philadelphia, and I think we can say Philadelphia is safe—but at New York and Boston at the time of our visit, and at our own ports, there was a very great lack indeed of any modern facilities for rapidly and thoroughly disinfecting the baggage, which might have been infected before it was packed up and brought on board at Hamburg. That, then, is the next absolute necessity—that we must have modern disinfecting appliances wherewith rapidly and with certainty to destroy any germs in the baggage or effects of immigrants, and, next, that there shall be at these points such facilities as shall rapidly and completely disinfect the ship which may have been infected. Now, at no place on our whole tour from Grosse Isle to Washington did we find any sufficient apparatus for that particular part of the work. So you can see that there is in that direction a very grave question facing us—how much can our Government afford to spend, how much can the Federal Government and the State Governments of the United States afford to spend for this purpose? What shall be its character, and, next, where shall they make their main point of defence? If we have not money to do this at more than two or three points, then it is possible to require all ships with passengers to come to those points. What is demanded is that here and in the United States, at those points, there shall be absolute defence against ingress. The other point I shall simply refer to because it belongs to the honorable gentleman's department—and it is a question which has arisen with the members of his own Cabinet, and with Provincial Governments and the various transit companies—what action shall our Government and the United States Government take with regard to bringing in immigrants next year? We know that next year we are to have a great world's fair on this continent, and we know there will be a large influx of a very doubtful class of immigrants from European countries. The immigration to the States last year was over seven hundred thousand. The Grand Trunk Railway brought in nearly forty