

and without opening of the abdomen this cannot be decided.

"This I regard as a very large death rate—ten per cent. As a rule one or two per cent. ought to cover our losses in this disease. It is only the cases that begin with extreme violence and progress rapidly that are really dangerous. All others, whether acute or chronic, will surely recover perfectly under careful treatment.

"Resort to surgery in the early stages of the disease will necessarily increase the mortality.

"Surgical procedure ought to be limited to those cases which have reached a dangerous stage, whether this be early or late in the course. Only a few cases, say five per cent., ever reach this stage. The others will recover. Then why operate? It is not the time but the condition that indicates the surgical procedure. Symptoms of perforation or of threatened collapse surely call for surgical interference. I know of no other positive indication. There is no man living who can be absolutely sure enough of the conditions to say in any case, without the above indications, that the surgical procedure is necessary to save the life, or more certain to do so than any other treatment. On the contrary, experience proves to all of us that recovery is certain in at least ninety per cent. of all cases.

"There remains, then, on this exceedingly liberal basis of estimate, only ten per cent. of which the question of surgical interference ought ever to arise.

"As to the treatment, the diet is of greater importance in appendicitis than in any other acute disease, not excepting typhoid fever. Water, mutton broth and broth of salt cod-fish, ice-cream (made of cream) in small quantities, cocoa, black tea, olive oil, and not too much of these, are sufficient, and seldom harmful. Beef, chicken, eggs, shell fish, and solid foods generally are hurtful. So are broths of beef and chicken. The utmost quiet and rest are indispensable. Hot poultices are not now in high favor, but they will be again in due time; for no external adjuvant equals them in value. They are best when made of ground flaxseed, lard, turpentine and boiling water; and the more acute the inflammation the hotter they ought to be kept applied. They are said to be hotbeds of microbes. Perhaps they are. The fact does not impair their great value

in allaying pain and inflammation.

"The patient ought to be kept in bed until he is perfectly well. Here is where imperfect work causes the "recurrent" form of the disease. Thoroughly cured cases do not "recur." And they can be thoroughly cured; I know of none of the twenty-seven cases having had subsequent trouble.

"If a chronic or recurrent case presents, the cure again is diet, as overeating is probably the most frequent cause, even of the acute attacks. Not only overeating, but eating too rich foods, especially animal foods. The animal world does not suffer from appendicitis.

"The remedies most frequently used and found useful by me are veratrum viride, bryonia, colocynth, turpentine, chamomilla, merc. corr., lycopodium, silicea, belladonna. Opium ought to be given in sufficient doses to relieve pain and allow both the patient and the irritable bowel to rest. In doubtful cases this may obscure the diagnosis. But in doubtful cases this is obscure anyhow; and I would not recommend a laparotomy just to make it clear—especially as the patient is almost certain to recover. In cases that are free from doubt from the beginning or soon after, opium does not obscure, and it does aid the cure.

"I fear these views are not popular with the profession—just now. But I am asked for my experience, and here it is as plain as I can make it. I am consoled by the knowledge that we are all biased, or liable to be, medical men and surgical men alike. Several of my thirty cases were pronounced incurable except by surgical procedure, by eminent surgeons of large experience. But they are now quite well, nevertheless. And the sum of my conviction is that at least ninety-five per cent. of cases of appendicitis are bound to recover perfectly under rational dietetics, hygiene, and remedies. And I want to add, that of all the pernicious and dangerous things that can be done in a case of appendicitis, the giving of enemata or of purgative medicine is the worst." *The Critique.*

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If a dog wants to bark, you can keep him quiet by holding his jaws shut, but the bark is still in him. So, when you give a man morphine, he may not know he is in pain, but the pain is still there.