

## I. DIAGNOSIS.

Colic is believed by Robert T. Morris to be a misnomer, and this opinion is supported by the observations of Flint, who finds that circular muscular fibres do not exist.

Catarrhal appendicitis is said by Murphy to exist in the proportion of one to 194 cases.

J. A. Macdougall, at the last meeting of the British Medical Association, said: In the great majority of cases, with ordinary care, the condition can be usually recognized, but at times there is a deceptive absence of relation between the symptoms, the physical signs and the lesion. All but two to four per cent. of peritonitis in men is said by J. H. Carters to be caused by appendicitis.

The case of Gambetta is frequently instanced as an example of the subacute form suddenly becoming acute.

Referring to the treacherous nature of the disease, Murphy writes: "Suppurative peritonitis cannot be diagnosed with any degree of certainty. It may exist and contain free pus with temperature 99° F. and pulse 80, and good facial expression. While retention appendicitis with peritoneal cavity free from infection may present the classical symptoms of peritonitis—thus: temperature, 105° F.; pulse, 140; enormous tympanites and anxious facial expression"—the use of opium masks the progressive character of some of the most important symptoms.

## II. TREATMENT TO BE PURSUED DURING THE FIRST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

Bryant, of New York, believes the percentage of recoveries without operation to be sixty to eighty, while Macdougall puts it at seventy-five. The recurrences are believed to be between eleven per cent. and seventeen per cent. Treves, who is opposed to the early operation, puts the mortality of non-suppurative cases at eleven per cent., and in abscess cases at thirty to forty per cent. The Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, has a mortality of twenty-five per cent., and St. Bartholomew and St. Thomas' Hospital a mortality of twenty per cent.

Murray, of Liverpool Infirmary, who operates only in abscess stages, reports twenty-three cases in all, with a mortality of seventeen per cent.

I shall give the expressed opinions of a few representative men.

Treves: During an attack an operation is seldom called for before the fifth day. Terms too strong cannot be used to condemn