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## Original Articles

### SURGICAL COMPLICATIONS OF TYPHOID FEVER.\*

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During the past twenty years or more, probably no disease has been of such common interest in the West to the medical profession and the public generally, as has Typhoid Fever, of which something like 5,000 cases have been treated in the Winnipeg General Hospital alone.

Out of a series of such extent, many interesting surgical complications might be recorded, but the scope of this paper will permit me to deal with only a few of the more important.

Without any doubt, the most common of the grave complications is perforation, which occurs in from 2 to 3 per cent. of all cases of typhoid, and to which is due fully one-third of the total mortality of the disease. The feature which renders it of special interest to the surgeon is its amenability to surgical treatment alone, and the constantly decreasing although still alarmingly high death rate even with the most approved surgical treatment.

In the series of cases above mentioned, there has been the usual number of perforations, but I wish to refer only to those cases which occurred during the past twenty months—my term of residence in the hospital. During this time I have had the opportunity of seeing 12 cases, 11 of which were operated upon with three recoveries. The remaining case refused operation, but the diagnosis was confirmed at autopsy.

The patients were all males, ranging from 20 to 43 years of age;

\*Read at the annual meeting, Canadian Medical Association, Winnipeg, August, 1909.