

I trust that I have not tired you with this detailed account of omental adhesions. As already stated, I have entered thus fully into the subject because I know of no similar record; 150 autopsies are not a great number from which to glean information, but are the reverse. My set of cases is devoid of examples of most of the conditions of omental disease to which attention has been called by previous writers. There were no examples of penetrating wounds of the abdomen plugged by the membrane to which McLeod has more especially drawn attention,<sup>12</sup> or of intestinal rents or perforations obtaining primary closure by similar means, which Gross was one of the first authorities to especially note.<sup>13</sup> Mine are ordinary consecutive and unselected cases; but as such, the fact that the omentum may gain attachment to every viscus lying in the abdominal cavity, and does this very frequently, is brought into strong relief.<sup>14</sup> It may pass upward and become attached to the stomach or liver, may journey to the right and form adhesions over the cecum and ascending colon in the neighborhood of the appendix, or backward to act as a plaster over a retroperitoneal abscess, and, what is still more remarkable, its edge may wander down into the pelvis and become fastened to the rectum, the ovary, or even to the stump of the uterus after hysterectomy. The number of autopsies is not great; but notwithstanding, we find this very large proportion of examples of old and recent abdominal inflammation, with the omentum forming adhesions in consequence.

At first sight it looks almost as though the viscus were

<sup>12</sup> Kenneth McLeod. *Edinburgh Med. Jour.*, xxiii, 1877, p. 1.

<sup>13</sup> Gross: "System of Surgery," 5th edition, p. 664.

<sup>14</sup> I have left the spleen out of this enumeration, because, while I have an occasional note relative to omental adhesions of this organ, I recognize that our observations are far from complete, in consequence of the organ being pulled forward for bacteriological purposes before its relationship *in situ* could be properly examined. Strictly speaking, every splenic adhesion is an omental adhesion, because the organ is developed within the omentum.