

A CASE OF APPENDICITIS WITH THREE RELAPSES— VENTRAL HERNIA.

BY

J. HERBERT DAREY, A.M., M.D., of Northwood, Iowa.
Fellow of the American Academy of Medicine.

For the early history of the case I am indebted to Dr. C. A. Hurd, of Northwood, under whose care the patient was for about a year.

Jas. McQ., a strong healthy farmer of Scotch descent, aged about 30 years, was taken during the night of July 1st, 1894, with severe colic, accompanied with vomiting, severe localized pain in the right iliac region and obstinate constipation. Dr. Hurd advised operation, which was declined. So he put him on half teacupful doses of castor oil and morphia, with poultices to the iliac region. His sickness lasted till the middle of September, 1894. Jan. 19th, 1895, Dr. Hurd was called again, and found a large tumour with great tenderness in the right iliac region, fecal vomiting, and obstinate constipation. This time Dr. Hurd insisted on operating as the only way of saving the man's life. The patient consented, and Dr. Hurd, with the assistance of Dr. Blackmer, of Albert Lea, Minnesota, opened the abdomen over the tumour, and at once found pus. It welled right out like a spring. The intestines were found all matted together, but the appendix could not be found. A drainage tube was inserted, and the wound stitched up. Fæces and gas escaped from the incision for some time. The soft parts were so undermined and necrosed that the stitches did not hold; but all sloughed out, and the wound had to be strapped together with plaster. This attack lasted till Feb. 20th, 1895. Shortly after he got up, he developed a ventral hernia. On the 20th of May, 1895, he developed a localized peritonitis in the site of the operation which was caused by his wife having a nightmare and accidentally striking him with her knee in the right iliac region. This attack lasted about ten days. In the spring of 1896, he went down to a Homeopathic Institute in Chicago, run by a Dr. Pratt, to be operated on for the ventral hernia, from which he made a good recovery. On the 13th of July, 1896, he came under my care for violent cramps in the stomach, obstinate constipation and vomiting. I ordered turpentine stupes, gave him some heavy doses of salts, and morphia hypodermically. After four visits I left him much relieved, with his bowels freely opened and no pain. My last visit was made on July 15th. On the 19th of July, I was sent for hurriedly to see McQ., and was