

amount, and whose feebleness in diagnosis caused them to make exploratory incisions "to clear up the case," and who were only too willing as "rising surgeons" to take the place of those who had risen.

In this section the much vexed question of when to operate in cases of appendicitis was reviewed from many standpoints, but probably not much additional light was thrown on the subject. There seemed still to remain the opposite extremes. There were the opinions, forcibly put, of those who teach that appendicitis is a surgical disease and that operation should be resorted to should the symptoms not clear up on the second or third day; and there were the opinions of others, equally forcibly put, that appendicitis is a medical disease and that ninety per cent. can be so treated successfully if properly managed.

The section of obstetrics and gynaecology was presided over by W. Japp Sinclair, of Manchester, who, on the day following the opening of the section, delivered an address on "The injuries of parturition, the old and the new." After a few complimentary remarks the doctor commenced his address by quoting two cases he had seen in consultation, one of which, a perfectly straight case, died from laceration of the anterior wall of the vagina. In this case so little did the accoucheur think of the use of the forceps that he did not consider it necessary to mention them, and the fact that they had been used was only elicited by accident. The second case had a dislocated uterus, a bilateral laceration of the cervix, and a rupture of the soft parts involving the perineum, sphincter ani, and a considerable portion of the recto-vaginal wall by the precipitate use of forceps after a labor of only six hours. In contrast to what he believed to be the too precipitate practice of to-day, he quoted from Mauriceau, who relates that he was called in March, 1669, to a primipara, aged 35, who had been in labor eight days and had been visited and abandoned by three or four surgeons, and that he delivered her by perforation and extraction with the crotchet. The patient lived for eleven days, dying apparently from puerperal infection. In conclusion Mauriceau says she might have escaped had she been delivered two or three days