

sionally are similar consequences produced by foreign bodies in the appendix. In a considerable proportion of cases the ulcer occurs without the irritation of a hard body of any kind. The ulcer deepens by a persistence of its causes till it touches the internal surface of the covering peritoneum, or the cellular tissue if within the mesentery; then trifling peritonitis or cellulitis or both occur, ending in a few days if the causative process stops. If, however, the ulcer deepens it perforates the appendix, a particle of its contents is extruded, when peritonitis or perityphlitis promptly ensues. In some instances the peritonitis is sharply localized and plastic exudation bars the irritating material from the general peritoneal cavity, and intra-peritoneal abscess forms; in others a general peritonitis occurs, and usually death in a few days.

If the perforation is within the mesentery a cellular inflammation results, and we have the common perityphlitis—usually not wholly independent of more or less peritonitis—and in a large proportion of cases such induration as may be easily demonstrated, and within this, pus.

Most cases in males of so-called “inflammation of the bowels” are simply instances of inflammation of the appendix or cæcum, with or without the involvement of the connective tissue about them, or the peritoneum, or both. It is equally true that most cases of peritonitis in men and boys, and not a few in females also, are due solely to perforation and infection consecutive to these diseases. Until discovered after death this cause is generally not suspected. I venture the assertion that most autopsies after peritonitis in the male sex reveal this etiology—and sections are made in only a meagre minority of such cases.

A case in point came under my observation in consultation about two years ago:

“Mr. S., a large, robust man, 45 years of age, had enjoyed apparent perfect health for many years. After attending a banquet he stood for half an hour, dressed in thin clothes and without an overcoat, in a cold and windy doorway waiting for his carriage. The next day he felt uncomfortable; later, had some pain and slight tenderness in the abdomen; the next day, fever