

case, as he had complete notes of 4,300 cases besides many others which he had seen in consultation with other doctors, and out of these he had only opened the abdomen 248 times. He felt sure that there were at least as many more who would have been greatly benefited by such an operation, and who were on the contrary dragging out a miserable existence while under palliative treatment. He had at least a hundred women under local treatment for diseased tubes who were having recurring attacks of pelvic peritonitis at intervals of from three months to two years, and most of these women would be believed eventually decide to have the cause of their sufferings removed. He found that this delay greatly increased the difficulties of the operation. If these tubo-ovarian abscesses were allowed to break into the rectum, bladder or vagina they became very dangerous to life. He had been called in consultation to a lady in Halifax in whom this condition existed, but she died from hectic fever, being too far gone for operation. He had also a great many cases of cirrhotic ovaries under his care, and these women he believed suffered much more than was generally supposed. Many of them had begged him to remove their ovaries, but it was his custom to decline to do so until they had first been treated for one year by other means. He thought that he had been too conservative, as many of these sufferers had reproached him for keeping them in misery so long when the operation was followed by immediate relief. In some of the grèatest sufferers from chronic ovaritis, the ovaries were so small that they could hardly be felt, and yet the day after their removal the patients claimed that they were entirely free from the pain from which they had suffered for years. In eight years he had only opened the abdomen 36 times for diseased ovaries and had lost only one of them. In about a dozen cases he had left the ovaries in after cutting out cysts and removing tubes. His experience, however, of conservative surgery of diseased ovaries was on the whole unsatisfactory. All the women with two or three exceptions reproached him for not having removed both ovaries completely. He thought that he would be more radical in future for the patients' sake as well as for his own reputation. It was a mistake to