

the question of operation. Here the exploratory laparotomy occupies its most honorable place; the hope in the far-off future of saving any large percentage of perforation cases rests in the earliest possible recognition and operation; the early certain recognition is not possible, and the surgeon must operate not when he knows there is perforation, but often when he only suspects it; he must set behind his back his "record" and remember that it requires more courage to operate upon an uncertain than upon a certain case. We must teach on all hands that to open the abdomen when perforation has been suspected and has not occurred, is to be counted no mistaken judgment on his part, but an indication of honorable zeal—a clear subordination of his own interests to those of the patient. Let it not be replied to this that it is impracticable in "private practice;" naturally it is, but it need not be so in the twenty-first century if the seeds be sown to-day; nor let it be said that if one waits one often finds that the sudden pain and the other symptoms were misleading and the "masterly inactivity" was justified; such an argument is plausible and misleading. Perhaps there are none of us to-day who are ready to advise operation in all such cases, but it is our duty to teach the triviality of the abdominal section compared with the chances incurred without it.

**THE WIDAL TEST.**—The requirements demanded for a positive result have always been strict; a positive reaction requires cessation of movement, and clumping, the time limit being from twenty to thirty minutes, the dilution approximately 1 in 20 to 1 in 40.

As stated above, the test was present in 92.77 per cent. of all cases tried; in the cases where it was found negative at first and repeated until positive, the reaction was found in 213 cases to appear upon the 14.7th day of the disease. The earliest day on which it was found present was the 4th day; it did not appear earlier in children than in adults. It appeared in 28 cases out of 678 on the 7th day, and in 29 cases, earlier.

**THE URINE.**—Records of the urinary examination are to hand in 575 cases, of which 264, 46 per cent., showed albumen at sometime during the course of the disease; casts were present in 162, 28.2 per cent., and both together were found in 136 cases, 23.6 per cent., of those examined. The co-existence of these two indicate the presence of a parenchymatous nephritis, but its slightness of degree often does not warrant the use of the term acute nephritis in the sense in which that term is generally understood.

The Ehrlich (Diazo-reaction) was tried in 512 cases, and was present in 344, 67.2 per cent.; unfortunately, it was not tried day by day as a routine, but the average of 340 cases shows that it was present on the