

The Canada Lancet

VOL. XXXVIII.

APRIL, 1905

No. 8

THE PROSPECTS AND VICISSITUDES OF APPENDICITIS AFTER OPERATION.*

By SIR FREDERICK TREES, BART, K.C.V.O., C.B., LL.D.

Surgeon to His Majesty, the King.

THE matters, Mr. President, which you have done me the honour to discuss arrange themselves under two heads :

1. The degree of imperfect relief, or of imperfect recovery after operation.
2. The complications which may attend operation, and which may be regarded as accidental or independent of the direct surgical results of the case.

I have based the comments upon these two topics, for the most part, on the records in my private case-books. The lamentable deficiencies in these records are, I hope, compensated for by the admirable series of statistics very kindly prepared for me by Mr. Hugh Lett from the registers of the London Hospital. These statistics cover a consecutive period and embrace 1,000 cases of operation for appendicitis. In addition to the colossal labour of transcribing the notes of these cases, Mr. Lett has addressed no less than 797 letters to discharged patients in order that the after history should be, in each instance, complete.

I believe that these particulars, collected with so much patience and care, will form the most important contribution which has yet been made to the statistics of this common malady.

In the account which follows I have kept the records of my own cases distinct from those collected by Mr. Lett, which latter are set out in coherent whole.

*Read before the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, February 28th, 1905.
—From *The British Medical Journal*.