

patients recover. If streptococcus be present the peritoneum in a few hours loses its endothelium and looks blistered ; not much pus ; lymph in flakes ; practically all die.

Bacillus coli commune, when pathological, resembles in action the streptococcus.

In early stage cannot diagnose further than presence of appendicitis. Suppurative peritonitis may exist and contain free pus with temperature 99° F. and pulse 80, and good facial expression.

Murphy : Operated on all cases, all stages and conditions, favorable or unfavorable. Deaths, 9.6 per cent.

General septic peritonitis, 11 ; died, 4 ; operated on from 33 hours to 11 days ; primary attack in 9 ; appendix perforated in all but one.

Mayo Robson (1896) : General peritonitis with pus, 6 cases ; cured, 5, or 82 per cent. ; all acute ; time, 2 to 4 days ; appendix removed in 4 ; one miscarried on second day, and was operated upon third day. Died, 1 ; operated on third day ; was cold and collapsed before operation.

In the *British Medical Journal* of this year is reported a case of general septic peritonitis cured by antistreptococcic serum.

This shows a steady improvement. Beginning with Fowler's 30 cases without a single recovery, we have, later on, Murphy saving 36⅓ per cent. ; McBurney, 58 per cent. ; and, quite recently, the splendid results of Mayo Robson of 82 per cent.

These highly encouraging results are due to improved methods of cleansing and drainage, and, with the assistance of antistreptococcic serum, we may confidently hope for something still better.

VII. RECURRENT CASES.

J. W. White : Indication for operation is practically undisputed when :

- (a) Attacks of any type have been numerous.
- (b) Increasing in number or gravity.
- (c) Have at any time put the patient's life in great danger.

Fowler : Absolutely no reliance is to be placed on the character of recurrences as prognostic indications.

In 162 operative cases 33 per cent. had previous attacks, averaging about 3. Operated in intervals on 8 ; all recovered. Condition found in 3 : Corkscrew and meso-appendix short, 1 ; thick and adhesions, 1 ; enclosed in peritoneum and degenerative changes, 1.

J. A. Macdougall : When medical means fail, when attacks are increasing in frequency, or are so severe as to imperil life, operate.