

Acute Appendicitis Occurring on the Eight Day of a Typhoid Fever; Operation; Recovery.

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On June 8th, 1904, I was called to see Miss D. F., a well-nourished girl. She gave a history of having been sick for four days previously. The patient complained of severe headache and neckache, the pulse was 110, and the temperature 102 deg. The bowels were constipated, the tongue was coated, and one or two suspicious spots were to be seen on the right side of the abdomen. The patient was given twenty one-tenth grain doses of calomel at fifteen minute intervals, followed in two hours by an aperient. Then two grains of bisulphate of quinine every two hours. A strict milk diet was enjoined. At my morning visit the following day, the temperature had fallen to 100 deg., several movements of the bowels had been obtained; the pulse was 92. Headache and backache were unrelieved. Quinine was continued. On June 10th the temperature was 101 deg., the other symptoms were the same.

On June 11th, the temperature was 100 deg., and a few additional spots were found on the abdomen. The patient still complained of severe headache and backache. On June 13th, the temperature was 103 deg. On examining the abdomen, the spots were still evident, and two or three more were present on the lower part of the chest. For the first time the patient complained of pain in the right side of abdomen, and pressure over McBurney's point elicited a good deal of distress. I advised that the patient be removed to Highland Hospital for more careful observation. On her arrival, the temperature had risen to 103.4 deg. Medicine and diet were continued as before, and an ice-bag was applied over the appendiceal region. During the next three days the temperature varied between 102 and 103.4 deg., there was increased pain on pressure over McBurney's point, a slight increase in number of spots. The patient had an anxious and distressed look, but retained her flesh well. The pulse was rapid, but of fairly good volume. On the twelfth day of the fever, at my evening visit, I found the temperature 103.4 deg., more pain on pressure, and some decided rigidity of the right rectus muscle. I advised operating. With the assistance of my colleagues, Drs. Doughty and McClintock, the operation was done on the thirteenth day of the fever. After the peritoneum was incised and the cecum drawn up and out of