

must necessarily in this way be removed and the saline solution has a sterilizing effect. In the abdomen there are five pools; one behind the liver, one behind the spleen, one in each loin and one in the pelvis. When washing, it will be noticed that the saline solution becomes stained with the pus whenever the blunt trocar is passed into one of these pools. The water may appear to run quite clear and then become turbid as soon as the trocar is placed to the depth of the pelvis, and the same happens when it passes to the posthepatic or postsplenic or other pouches. The intestines should not be rubbed with sponges, towels or rubber-gloved fingers, and no attempt should be made to remove the excess of saline solution after a thorough lavage. The source of infection should always be hunted for and closed off either by means of accurately approximating sutures or, when this is not possible, by means of a protective Mikulicz gauze packing. It is only under the latter circumstance that any packing need be used in the abdominal cavity, and this packing is not intended to act as a drain, but to shut off a dangerous area—an area of repair of which the operator is doubtful.

At the time of making my report I had thirty-seven deaths and twenty-five recoveries in all, an apparently appalling record; but when this was further analyzed I found that in the first series there were twenty-six deaths and four recoveries; in the last series of thirty cases there were ten deaths and twenty recoveries. Of the last eleven cases there were nine recoveries; one of the deaths in this number was a foregone conclusion, being a case upon which operation should not have been performed, as the man had had hydrochloric acid poured out through a large perforation of the stomach, irritating his abdominal viscera for twenty-four hours. Since the date of that article I have treated the following cases:

- No. 1535, Noble died.
- No. 1574, Jones recovered.
- No. 1614, Brady recovered.
- No. 1624, Bliss recovered.

Dr. Marlowe, the assistant in my department at the Toronto General Hospital, has operated on eight cases with thorough lavage and closure with recovery in each case. Taking his experience with mine would show for the method advocated five deaths and twenty recoveries in the last twenty-five cases treated. From what I can hear from others, the results claimed