

ETIOLOGY. *Age.* Most cases occur in young adults, the youngest patient reported was nine months, the oldest seventy-four.

*Sex.* Females are slightly more liable.

*Cases following operations.* This is an instructive group and comprise 47 per cent. of cases. About 69 per cent. of these follow abdominal operations and most frequently following operations on gall bladder or bile passage. Seventeen such cases are recorded. Next in frequency are operations on the kidney, eleven of these having been recorded. Dilatation following operation on the stomach itself is comparatively rare, only four cases being reported. Operations on the ovary and appendix only four and five cases respectively reported previously to our two cases. It occurred eleven times following various operations on the extremities.

Where the anaesthetic is recorded fourteen were ether and thirteen chloroform; in both of my cases ether was used. In the recorded cases no mention is made of the length and amount of anaesthetic.

The onset following operation varies in time from immediately to two weeks after, but in the majority of cases occurs on the third or fourth day. This was the case in one of our cases, in the other it occurred on the same day.

Another interesting group of cases are those occurring during some other disease. Fifty cases occur in this group. The largest number are where some spinal deformity is found, five of which were thought to be due to application of a plaster cast. Six cases occurred during pneumonia and five during convalescence from typhoid. Other conditions in which it occurred are chronic pulmonary tuberculosis, carcinoma of esophagus, abscess of jaw, gonorrhoea, arthritis, disease of the brain, acute rheumatism, miliary tuberculosis, hip joint disease, sciatica, chorea, grave anuria, sarcoma of the humerus and scarlatina. A point to be noted in these cases is that it usually occurs in extreme prostration, emaciation or prolonged decubitus.