

For the three years ending 1886, before the operative treatment had been utilized, the deaths from this class of disease in the Province averaged 147 yearly; and for the three years ending 1900, when the surgical treatment had been in some measure adopted, the average yearly deaths had increased to 402. While the general death-rate increased less than 28 per cent., the deaths from this class of disease increased over 170 per cent.

The reported 264 cases treated medically in St. Thomas' Hospital, London, with a death-rate of 14 per cent., show that the disease has not a high death-rate when thus treated. These would be a selection of the worst cases from the crowded districts of that great city, and would be expected to have a far greater fatality than the cases that come under the care of the profession in this Province—and I believe this is the fact. Judging from the number treated in the hospitals, and the number occurring in several localities of which I have some knowledge, I believe that five thousand yearly would be a fair estimate of the number of these cases that are subjected to professional treatment. Judging from past results, the death-rate from medical treatment would be less than 4 per cent.; and from the mixed treatment, to the extent now practised, about 8 per cent. There are now about one-fourth of these cases treated surgically, and if they were all so treated, we would expect the death-rate to be about 20 per cent.

Within the past two years there has come within my personal knowledge 39 cases that were subjected to operation for this disease. Thirteen of these died shortly after the operation; two have hernias; one had fecal fistula; one is still afflicted with recurrent pain in the iliac region; and one, a previously healthy young woman, who happened to be at a large operating centre when she took a slight pain in her abdomen for the first time, and had her appendix removed within a few hours. Suppression of urine followed, and although the operative wound healed readily, she was confined to bed for three months. This was in October, 1900, and she has not yet recovered her former health. So with these six the operation did not end all their trouble, but the remaining 20 express themselves as being perfectly well, and thoroughly satisfied with the result of their experience. I have no reason to believe but all these operations were done with the average skill and care—some were done by noted specialists. During this period I have collected 46 cases treated medically, with only 2 deaths.

Since the beginning of 1901 I have treated 16 cases, the initial symptoms of which would have warranted operation according to current practice. Of these, five were severe, and developed more or less general peritonitis. One was ill 8 weeks, 1 five weeks, 2 four weeks, and 1 three weeks. The remaining 11 were ill for periods varying from two to 10 days. None were operated on, and all recovered, and have since been as well as before their illness. This