

eased process. The whole abdomen is more or less rigid, but the area of tenderness is as yet limited. The temperature is usually high but may be subnormal. The respirations are rapid and shallow, the pulse small and fast, nausea or vomiting is present as well as meteorism and pain. If the abdomen is opened at once the appendix and adjacent coils of bowels are found bathed in pus and though the general peritoneal cavity is not as yet involved it very soon would be and, principally owing to the constant peristaltic movements of the small intestines, the only freely moveable structure in the neighborhood of the disease.

One may illustrate this progress of a septic process by the well-known example of the dissecting-room finger. After infection, the student continues to work throughout the day and in the evening finds more or less pain in the finger. After a night's rest the pain has disappeared and he works during the second day only to find that the pain is still more severe in the evening. After a second night's rest there is little or no pain and again he resumes his work only to find evidences of lymphangitis on the evening of the third day. Now he is obliged to give up work and pay some attention to his hand and arm and he soon learns the lesson that absolute rest to the part relieves the pain and checks the progress of the infection. After a time, one or more localized abscesses will form and may be opened at one's leisure. In the old days such a case would have been treated heroically. At the seat of infection an early free incision would have been made, a tendon sheath probably opened resulting in teno-synovitis and a permanently maimed finger. Now-a-days the infected limb is put in a position of absolute rest with proper antiseptic precautions. Indeed, if one were restricted to one single measure in the treatment of spreading sepsis it would appear that *rest* would be the paramount remedy.

To return to our case of diffuse septic peritonitis. Such a case I formerly operated upon at once only to find that, too often the disease advanced in spite of the operation and the