

Selected Articles.

THE OCHSNER TREATMENT OF APPENDICITIS.

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The great majority of physicians understand Dr. Ochsner's postulates, and "thousands of surgeons faithfully follow them" in treating appendicitis. The treatment has been publicly endorsed by the Mayos, Murphy, Morris, Matas, Richardson, Rodman and many others. Nevertheless, we hear it frequently stated that the treatment is misunderstood, that it is made the excuse by many physicians, for advising against operation, and that when carried out it often results in defeating an operation for the reason that the patient, feeling himself relieved, refuses to submit to the removal of the appendix.

At the last meeting of the American Medical Association, in 1908, R. T. Morris, in closing the discussion of his own paper on "Appendicitis," said, "The Ochsner treatment is one of the greatest points ever made in the history of appendicitis, but the Ochsner treatment, as comprehended by the average physician of New York, is damnable," C. E. Thompson said, in the same discussion, "The Ochsner treatment means, to the general country practitioner, do not operate; many of these practitioners have always been opposed to surgery, and now they assert that a great surgeon in Chicago is saving nearly all of his cases by not operating on them. The treatment has been misunderstood, and has thus been the cause of filling many untimely graves."

In the above statement of Morris we have the highest testimony of the value of the Ochsner treatment, together with his condemnation of the misuse of it by the average physician. While we do not believe there is such a lamentable misconception of the treatment here as Dr. Morris would lead us to believe exists in New York, yet I feel that there is such a degree of misunderstanding in reference to it as to justify a brief consideration of the subject at this time.

Ochsner described his treatment in full before the Chicago Medical Association, October 10th, 1900, giving in this original paper the results of eight years' employment of the treatment. At that time he set forth certain propositions in reference to