

in and prescribed hot fomentations. In the evening, the temperature went up; pains, always severe, were paroxysmal. During the night, vomiting appeared and continued all next day. For five or six days, the symptoms remained the same; spontaneous pain was quite severe, the right side of the abdomen was tender on pressure, and the temperature reaching 102 in the evening. Eight or ten days after the onset of the disease, the physician noticed in the right iliac region, the presence of a semi-fluctuation tumour and, being naturally convinced that an abscess had developed about the appendix, the patient was brought to Ottawa for operation.

Examination:—At the outer extremity of a line drawn from the antero-superior spine to the umbilicus, a large bulging was seen, three or four inches in all its diameters; fluctuation was evident.

Although the characters of this abscess appeared to me somewhat unusual, owing to its dimensions and the rather high situation compared with that of purulent collections due to appendicitis, I lent little importance to these irregularities and I decided to operate.

Incision at the base of the tumour was made; the skin, muscles, fascia and finally the peritoneum were carefully divided. The dark brown wall of the collection appeared, the knife was plunged into it. Not a drop of pus followed, but a stream of limpid serous fluid squirted out; 18 ounces were withdrawn. It was a cyst. I immediately seized its wall with a clamp and proceeded to separate the adhesions, soft, recent, which united it to the peritoneum. I then looked for the pedicle, but the latter seemed to be so low down that I decided to make another incision in the median line, in order to be in a better position to see what I was doing. The abdomen rapidly opened, I made a new exploration. To my great surprise, I fell upon a multitude of fibroids with which the uterus was literally studded. The cyst proved to belong to the right ovary and was adherent to the intestines, the pelvic floor and the abdominal wall. The whole thing was removed; uterus and appendages, and this operation, begun for the mere opening of an abscess, terminated in an abdominal hysterectomy.

And the appendix? It is true, I forgot that. Well, it was entirely normal, not even a trace of the least emotion. I considered the risks which had just threatened its existence as a well deserved appeal to my clemency and I left it in the abdomen.

I humbly confess that, in this case, a thorough examination might have permitted me to avoid a mistake. A vaginal examination would surely have allowed me to detect the presence of the uterine tumours. However, without trying to minimize the extent of my error, I beg to