

There were eighteen cases, thirteen female and four male. The patients varied in age. Most were between twenty and thirty years; the extremes were twelve and a half and seventy-one.

Three to twenty hours had elapsed between perforation and operation in fourteen cases; of these eight recovered, six died. Between twenty-one and thirty hours, two recovered, one died. One case recovered fifty hours after rupture.

The rapidity of the pulse as a prognostic is emphasized when we observe that in five of the fatal cases the pulse was over 130 before operation. We lost, however, one where the pulse was only 112, but the patient was seventy-one years old.

There were seven deaths in all; four females and three males. It was impossible to save Case 9 whose omentum was already gangrenous, or Case 16, with uræmia due to advanced congenital cystic disease of the kidneys.

It will be seen that the mortality is not excessive, and that an early diagnosis may do much to render operation for gastric ulcer highly successful. There is no reason why the judicious country practitioner should not act in emergencies, and by a comparatively simple operation, not in itself dangerous, save lives that otherwise might incur still greater risk were they sent to a distant hospital.

Some points in regard to history, leucocytosis, micro-organisms, and after complications, may be ascertained from the accompanying table. The plates serve to illustrate the appearance and position of the perforations. It would ill-become us in this section to meet without paying our tribute of reverence to the memory of our late Professor Mikulicz Radecki of Breslau.

In Mikulicz, the alert glance, so full of sunshine, the deft, dainty yet powerful hand proclaimed the artist. His wondrously versatile scientific work, his earnest quest of truth, his whole life history breathed forth the catholic spirit of a true humanity.

A pupil of Billroth, a follower of the principles laid down by Lister, he was the pioneer and perfecter of aseptic methods. Carried off in the day of his strength by that disease, cancer of the stomach, the fell ravages of which he had himself done so much to mitigate, he has left an enduring fame as a great surgeon.