

instead of resorting to surgical intervention only when the organism was saturated with septic products, the appendix had been removed from the appearance of the very first symptoms !

Where, may I ask you, do all these cases of appendicitis come from ? Is this disease merely what we formerly used to call : perityphlitis, inflammation of the bowels, peritonitis ? I do not think so. Be it as it may, their number is simply astonishing and seems to increase more and more every day. Since we cannot be held responsible for the plague which afflict humanity, I venture to express the hope that this disease is not, for a while at least, doomed to disappear ; it alone, almost suffices to maintain the living of the physician ! Who knows ? It is quite possible that, taught by experience, we shall one day enjoy the gratification of having succeeded in reducing to naught, in the surgical treatment of appendicitis, the mortality of our surgical statistics. Then will it be the golden age of abdominal surgery ! Unfortunately for the specialist, every physician, authorized or not, but protected by antisepsis if not by his surgical knowledge, will not resist the desire of wielding the knife and do also his little appendectomy, and we, poor gynecologists, victims of the unjust application of a sort of Munro's doctrine, and driven away from a portion of a territory which in my opinion we rightly claim as our own, we shall find ourselves shut up in our last entrenchments, having for sole consolation our disregarded experience. Luckily, there will always remain to quench our thirst, some women tired of their ovaries or yearning for the restitution of the virginal dimensions of their relaxed genitals.

Gentlemen, I will end here this mournful excursion which you had the kindness to join. It is with a true feeling of relief that I quit this sorrowful abode where are buried with my poor dead ones, the painful impressions I so frequently experienced, the anguish which tortured my soul when, listening to the voice of my conscience after the loss of a patient, I felt myself impelled to face the problem of my direct responsibility in the occurrence of the disaster. In the hope of interesting you, I made a sincere confession of the misfortunes that befell