

2. Operation is required in cases of undoubted severe acute inflammation in the region of the appendix, even though no particular induration is demonstrable, and in cases of acute localized peritonitis having its origin certainly at the appendix and causing marked constitutional symptoms. In the one situation there is almost certainly such violent inflammation of the appendix as seriously to threaten perforation, with all its dire possibilities; in the other, perforation has occurred and an abscess is probably forming. In the one case there should be laparotomy and extirpation of the appendix; in the other, laparotomy, extirpation of the appendix, if possible, and treatment of the abscess. Probably these two classes cannot be distinguished from each other; many of the symptoms of the one belong to the other. Practically, it is hardly important that they should be distinguished, as both abundantly justify surgical interference; the patients are in vastly less jeopardy with the operation, when carefully made, than without it.

3. Surgery is especially promptly required in that small class of acute cases in which a large, sensitive induration develops rapidly, with high fever and general evidence of severe constitutional disturbance. Here extensive deposit and large abscess are almost certain to be present, and the danger of early rupture into the peritoneal cavity is considerable, hence the necessity of prompt action.

4. Surgical aid is demanded in all cases which have advanced to the subacute or chronic stage with distinct induration of considerable size, or with any induration that steadily increases in size for many days, since in most such cases pus is present. These are the cases where sometimes weeks and months after the acute stage a tumor of variable size is found in the iliac region, slightly tender, dull on percussion, and attended by a slight stiffness in walking dependent on pain in flexing the right thigh. Usually in such cases there are frequent exacerbations of moderate suffering in the affected region, often with slight fever, and disabling the patient for a day or two. Unless the tumor is very small pus is almost invariably found in its midst, the quantity varying from a few drachms to many ounces. The