

conclusions as to the character of these inflammations and what ought to be done for them, some of which are rather sweeping, and which encounter doubt and opposition on the part of many practitioners who give little or no attention to surgery. If the results attained by surgery were put with the observations of large numbers of cases never requiring surgical interference, and which are never seen by workers in the field of surgery, we should have the safest guide for diagnosis and treatment.

It is certain that these diseases are frequently not recognized and are often mistreated, and that the notions of doctors generally regarding them need to be radically revised. An obstacle to the exact understanding of the whole subject is the reluctance practitioners manifest to reporting their unfortunate results and bad diagnoses.

One prevalent misconception regarding these inflammations is is of their actual and relative frequency. Primary inflammation of the cæcum is rare, while that of the appendix is very common. Of all organs of the abdomen in males the appendix is most prone to dangerous inflammation. In females this tendency is exceeded by the pelvic organs only. Of 300 autopsies at random Toft reports that 36 per cent. revealed evidence of disease of the appendix. Such evidence doubtless consisted of adhesions of the organ to adjacent parts, and of various changes in its structure and condition which can be caused only by inflammation of some degree or character. Often these appearances are found in cases not known to have ever had abdominal inflammation. Four-fifths of all cases collected by Fitz were in males, showing a marked predisposition difficult to explain. While of all cases of appendicitis without extension only 20 per cent. were in females, 26 per cent. of cases of perityphlitis were of that sex. This does not prove, perhaps, that women are more prone to perityphlitis from inflammation of the appendix than men, but the increased percentage may be explained by the possibly greater tendency in them to pure cæcitis from foreign bodies—aggravated by constipation—since irritation within the cæcum sometimes leads to perforation and perityphlitis.

Dr. Ludvig Hektoen of Chicago, a careful observer, has noted