

We do not feel sure that, had he recovered from this attack without operation, the so-called *interval operation* would later have become justifiable without renewed evidence of persistent and threatening disease.

We wish again to congratulate the English people and their sovereign upon the successful efforts of their physicians and surgeons in this most trying case.—*Editorial Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

THE RELATIVE MORTALITY UNDER OPERATIONS AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE DISEASE.

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The unfavorable features of the King's case are his mental forebodings, age, reported state of his constitution, and late operation.

Judging from even the meagre data at hand, of operative findings by Treves, and of the post-operative conditions, I am inclined to give a grave prognosis. If he were a beggar instead of a King, I judge that an early operation, within twenty-four hours of onset of the attack, as is our rule in Chicago, would probably have been done and the disease have been thereby promptly robbed of its dangers.

The surgeon whose fingers are in the abscess cavity is the best judge of whether the appendix should be removed then or not. When local conditions are favorable and the patient is behaving well under the anesthetic, the appendix should be removed. I do not think it wise to temporize; once the diagnosis is made, an operation is the only rational and safe treatment for appendicitis. Whereas clinical manifestations do not interpret truly the anatomical changes, or the virulency of the infection, why should we wait? The King's case is an object lesson to the world on appendicitis. It must be remembered that in his case there were extraordinary national and international environments and considerations which no doubt naturally influenced him and his attendants to favor the postponement of surgical aid, and in the meantime to avoid it if possible. It is evident that at the beginning of the attack and for a few days thereafter the symptoms and signs were not alarming, and herein lies the deception in appendicitis. This we all know. The symptoms improve, and then light up again as they did with the King.

It may now be said that His Majesty has survived the immediate effects of the operation, and if no complications