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## Original Articles

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### APPENDICITIS.\*

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It was with much pleasure that I accepted the invitation to read a paper on some surgical subject at this the first meeting of the newly-formed British Columbia Medical Association. Appendicitis (so called) I have chosen for the subject of my paper.

The disease is exceedingly common, causing, according to some authorities, 95 per cent. of all cases of general peritonitis. It has a large mortality, its exact nature is of only recent recognition, and at the present time the views concerning the treatment of the affection can only be said to be in a state of experiment, or, at any rate, a matter open to much discussion and controversy.

So far no paper has, to my knowledge, been written on this subject by any member of the medical profession in British Columbia. Current medical literature, particularly periodical literature, has been replete with articles by many writers on the subject. The views expressed as to treatment have been most diverse and conflicting, and the reader, if governed by what he peruses, and not by personal experience, must be in great perplexity as to the proper course to adopt when he meets the disease at the bedside. It is only by the accumulated experience of individuals that definite and uniform views of treatment can be formulated, and it is more or less the duty of those possessed of clinical knowledge of the disease to place the same on record. I therefore offer no apology for speaking on a well-worn subject.

In "Allbutt's System of Medicine," and in "Treves' Surgery," two of our most important and recent medical publica-

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\* Paper read at first meeting of the British Columbia Medical Association.