

A YEAR'S WORK IN ABDOMINAL SURGERY.*

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Mr. President and Gentlemen—During the last working year I have opened the peritoneal cavity 38 times. Of these 35 were abdominal sections, the others were total vaginal extirpations of the uterus, and I have included them in the list because the important element of peritoneal section obtains equally in them with the abdominal cases proper. The list I submit includes an unusual variety of cases and conditions, and I venture to think that its recital may be of some interest and furnish material for a useful discussion. Every operation was done in a private hospital, with the most scrupulous attention to cleanliness of the hands of operator, assistants and nurses; and of instruments, sponges and ligatures, but without the use of any antiseptic whatever except to the field of operation—abdominal wall or cavity of the vagina,—where a 1-1000 sublimate solution was always freely used after thorough scrubbing of the part with soap and water. The after-treatment was entirely under my own watching and control, a circumstance to which I attribute great importance in determining the results obtained. The following is a brief classification of the cases with results:

		<i>Recoveries.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Ovariectomies	16	16	—
Hysterectomies	2	2	—
Removals of Uterine Appendages	11	10	1
Abdominal section for opening Pelvic Abscess.....	2	2	—
Puerperal Peritonitis	2	—	2
Abdominal section for Retro-Peritoneal Cyst.....	1	1	—
Exploratory Operations.....	3	2	1
Total Vaginal Extirpation of Uterus	3	3	—

Of the ovariectomies several were of exceptional interest. In two there was twisting of the pedicle, giving rise in both to violent pain, and in one of them to severe peritonitis. In the

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