

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

ILEOSIGMOID ANASTOMOSIS AS A THERAPEUTIC MEASURE
IN INTESTINAL AUTOTOXICOSIS.

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THE surgeon of to-day stands a co-worker with the great forces of evolution in human development, his special function being that of a life saver amid the carnage of the cruel, yet economical, law of the survival of the fittest. He has followed all too slowly the line of progress which nature has blazed through the centuries with the blood of those sacrificed upon the altar of race development.

“So careful of the type she seems,
So careless of the single life,
That I considering everywhere
Her secret meaning in her deeds.
I falter where I firmly trod,
And falling with my weight of cares
Upon the great world’s altar-stairs
That slope through darkness up to God.”

From the vantage ground of conquered appendiceal pathology we see the colon doomed to follow in the procession of effete organs, whose presence has so frequently been a menace to function and life. We must either adapt our environment, internal and external, to meet the demands of our ever-changing physical being, or conform that physical being anatomically and functionally to the demands of twentieth century civilization. Herbert Spencer’s classic definition of life should be committed to memory by everyone interested in medical progress. Here it is: “Life is the definite combination of heterogeneous changes, both simultaneous and successive, in correspondence with external co-existences and sequences.” Every surgeon should paste this in his hat until he assimilates it, and until it had become a basal factor in his therapeutic activities. Medicine and surgery can succeed only as they progress in harmony with the principle of continuity of life herein expressed.

It is no longer a question as to the necessity of the colon as an organ of digestion. The experience of the writer with the wider experience of not a few others whose facilities were greater, has settled the point that the removal or the sidetracking of the colon does not perceptibly diminish bodily nutrition. Neither is it a question as to the colon being fre-