

enormous disparity between the number of cases of appendicitis in New Orleans and other large cities? It would seem a poor answer to make to the physician who asked it to say that he and his *confrères* had failed to recognize so deadly a disease, and it would hardly be a better reply to my recital of these epidemics to say that they must all have been typhoid fever, because there was nose-bleed. The absence of every other typhoid symptom, the absence of anything like a normal case of that disease, the plunge from normal health to raging fever, the violence of the pain and the suddenness of its onset, ought to be proof enough that no such mistake had been made. And so I confess I find cause enough to wonder whether the physiologist who remarked years ago the close resemblance between the glandular structure of the tonsil and the appendix was not after all groping after a real fact of importance. Neither the tonsil or the spleen is absolutely essential to our existence, and both are about as little uniform in construction as is the appendix: one and perhaps both are apparently the landing-places of deadly infections. The thyroid gland and suprarenal capsule both have essentially vital functions, and an atom of one will control the life and figure and mind of its possessor. Evidences enough are at hand of the activity of the secreting functions of the appendix, and why, after all the oft told tales of its utter uselessness, may it not have a duty in the economy and be the welcome home of some unknown germ of destruction? And why, let me say in conclusion, may not this physiological dream be one way to account for this other, to me unnamed, disease.

---

EGG ALBUMEN AS A MEDICINE.—When the patient is hardly able to pay a doctor's bill, to say nothing of a drug bill, a cheap and handy substitute for fancy invalid foods is desirable. When fever is present and appetite is *nil*, and when we want an aseptic article of diet, Dr. Boynton says, the white of an egg raw serves both as food and medicine. The way to give it is to drain off the albumin from an opening about half an inch in diameter at the small end of the egg, the yolk remaining inside the shell; add a little salt to this and direct the patient to swallow it. Repeat every hour or two. In typhoid fever this mode of feeding materially helps us in carrying out an antiseptic and aseptic plan of treatment. Furthermore, the albumin to a certain extent may antidote the toxins of the disease. Patients may at first rebel at the idea of eating a "raw" egg, but the quickness with which it goes down without the yolk proves it to be less disagreeable than they supposed.—*Pacific Medical Journal*.