

Clinical Reports

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A CASE OF PERITYPHLITIC ABSCESS.

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At noon, on August 3rd last, I was called to see a gentleman from Duluth, who had been suddenly seized, at his hotel, with severe abdominal pain and vomiting. There was a history of a similar attack ten years ago, from which he made an uneventful recovery, and has enjoyed good health ever since. Upon entering his room, judging from the appearance and history of the case, I at once became suspicious of appendicitis, but could find no tenderness whatever over the region or vicinity of appendix; there was, however, a great deal of tenderness in deep palpation in the right hypochondriac and epigastric regions. Pain was intense; pulse, 94; temperature, 102. History of constipation; bowels had not been moved for over two days; persistent vomiting.

I concluded that the case was one of acute fecal obstruction, although I could locate no fecal tumor. I emptied the large bowel at once by two or three copious injections of warm water, removing an immense quantity of hard scybala, which gave great relief to patient, rendering the administration of an opiate unnecessary, although previous to this he suffered greatly.

I then applied hot fomentations to abdomen, and administered mild aperients.

The patient was very comfortable during that afternoon, and slept mostly all night. Was also easy all following day (4th), although there was considerable soreness in palpation all over the right side of abdomen. Temperature was 99; pulse, 65 to 75; tongue slightly furred, but moist; no vomiting after giving injections.

During the night of the 5th he was again seized with a renewed attack of pain, which required $\frac{3}{4}$ grain morph. sulph. hypod. to relieve; but on morning of 6th his bowels moved freely two or three times again, passing an immense quantity of hard scybala; in fact, the quantity of fecal matter passed during the next two or three days is almost beyond comprehension. After his bowels became thus unloaded, he seemed to be getting along fairly well; suffered little or nothing; slept well; pulse, 75 to 85; temperature