

in physician or surgeon. We thus clear our way to the essentially acute cases ; and we have found that in these inflammation always counts for something, generally for a good deal. Now, whether we know exactly how to deal with the main cause or not, we always know how to deal with the inflammation ; and except in the extremest urgency, our first duty is to simplify our case by lessening this. Unfortunately, means are often used which tend rather to aggravate the enteritis, and of all these, injections into the bowel are the most mischievous. Even in the case of fecal accumulation, it is not the fecal mass, but the inflammation set up by it, to which the explosion is due, so that even in these cases it is wild practice to pump into the inflamed bowel and to drag the patient hither and thither in bed. Even for diagnostic purposes, enemata are rated far too highly, and are rarely of much service. Clearly, it is our duty to reduce our case by complete rest, opiates, formentations, and a leech or two to the abdomen, or anus until the enteritis subsides, and then we can deal as we see fit with its cause. But if enemata are abused in fecal accumulation, wherein they are chiefly valuable, what are we to say of the fashion of forcing their employment in cases of internal strangulation ? It is certainly conceivable that an intussusception may be unfolded by a forcible and ample injection, or by the insufflation of air, but to force air or water against a knotted or snared loop of intestine is surely outrageous meddling. And yet I have never been called into a case of such obstruction without finding that such a measure has been assiduously employed, to the harassing of the patient, to the aggravation of the symptoms, and to the increase of inflammation around the stomach. I believe no formula can be drawn from our experience of more value than this, namely, that if rest in every way be sedulously enforced, and the inflammation which palsies the bowel be carefully combated by the use of sedatives, such as opium and belladonna, and other means, cases of obstruction of the bowels tend to recovery.

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