

aspect of perfect health. Ever since the operation, however, he had been troubled with pain in the iliac fossa, which varied in intensity, was of neuralgic type, and occasionally rendered him unfit to do his duty. I could suggest no explanation of the trouble, and sought refuge in those vague neuralgias which occasionally follow an operation. After many months the pain entirely left him.

In five cases out of the series the only explanation of the patient's persisting trouble was the inadequate one that they were neurotic. This, I am aware, is no explanation, for the term "neurotic" is little more than a cloak to cover ignorance. Three of the patients were men and two were women. Their ages ranged from 32 to 49. They all were chronic invalids and all maintained that they were none the better for the operation. The chief complaint was of persisting pain in the appendix area and sense of abiding illness. There was not lacking the environment of sympathetic relatives and much pampering. One patient was haunted by the dread of cancer and was sure that his pain was due to it. Another—a gentleman of 43—was exceedingly gouty, and to gout some of his trouble may have been due. One patient had had his abdomen opened twice already and was searching for a surgeon who would open it a third time.

As a typical example may be mentioned the case of a lady of 32, whose appendix had been removed for chronic appendicitis with subacute attacks. Four years later she maintained that she was "as bad as ever." She was severe in her judgment of the surgeon who had operated upon her. She had constant dyspepsia, with flatulence and irregularity of the bowels, constant pain in the appendix region, where she could feel swellings and tumours which were apparent to no other fingers than her own. She was quite an invalid, and had moved from one health resort to another without benefit. Medical treatment, as a rule, made her worse. The simple measures I suggested did her much harm. Finally she fell in with a "Nature cure," which led to her speedy and complete recovery and to the deepening of her contempt for orthodox medicine.

In 9 instances in the present series attacks were reported to have continued without improvement after the operation. The patient in each instance maintained that the attacks which followed the removal of the appendix were identical with those which preceded it. In 3 examples the attacks were proved, in course of time, to be due to gall stones, in 2 to colic, in 2 to movable kidney, and in 1 to renal calculus. In the remaining instance no explanation of the attacks was forthcoming. In this case, during the first five months after the operation, the patient, a spinster of 37, had four attacks of pain, with a temperature of 100 degrees