

employed for their hæmostatic action. That such effect is produced by them is extremely doubtful. During the first minutes of intraabdominal irrigation there is a very considerable quantity of the liquid absorbed; when a normal saline solution is used this practically amounts to a veritable transfusion. The peritoneal cavity may be washed by toxic substances without danger of general poisoning, provided the toxic irrigation is preceded for ten minutes by one of a solution of chloride of sodium of the strength of seven per cent. and is followed by a third lavage with the same solution.—*Ibid.*

Surgical Treatment of Local and of General Peritonitis originating from the Appendix Vermiformis.—The subject of peritonitis, as caused by inflammation, and particularly by perforation of the vermiform appendix, is exhaustively considered by Dr. A. Krecke (*Deutsch. Zeitschrift f. Chirurgie*, Bd. 30, April 10, 1890). He states that the variety of appendix diseases which leads to peritonitis is the perforative. This perforation arises from ulceration beginning in the mucous membrane, which traverses the whole thickness of the intestinal coats and finally causes sloughing of the serosa. This ulcerative process is nearly always caused by the formation of concretions in the lumen of the appendix; rarely foreign bodies act in the same way. Where no cause for ulceration is found it is readily conceivable that a concretion might have been present, this having been washed away with the exudate.

It is well recognized that these perforations give rise to markedly different symptoms in accordance with whether they develop suddenly or are of more gradual formation. If the process is slow the peritoneal surfaces surrounding the inflamed area have time to form adhesions, so that when the opening into the bowels is finally accomplished, simply a circumscribed inflammation of the peritoneum results. When, however, there is a sudden perforation the contents of the appendix are freely distributed into the general peritoneal cavity, and as a result general peritonitis sets up.

It is to be noted that perforative peritonitis dependent upon disease of the appendix occurs, almost without exception, in individuals who were, up to the time of their attack, in good