

went further than Dr. Senn and said that cases do occur, from time to time, in which the surgeon is justified in operating before he had made a diagnosis, in order to enable him to make one. In regard to this question of diagnosis, he said that if his hearers would recall his article in *Quain's Dictionary* they would recollect that he had collected several thousand cases. What we should be guided by is not the statistical probabilities, but the actual indications of the particular case before us. Every case must be studied and judged upon its own merits, and treated according to the indications that present. The chances may be 999 to 1000 in favor of one man and 1 to 1000 in favor of another. In regard to the treatment of intestinal obstruction, he would say the first thing to do is to determine the seat of the obstruction. In cases of acute intestinal obstruction, or where there is reason to believe that the obstruction exists in the small intestine, then he believes the proper course of treatment to pursue is to open the abdomen and search for the cause, and relieve it as best we can. On the other hand, when the indications are that the obstruction is in the large rather than in the small intestine, there is not the same degree of urgency in a very large proportion of cases. Of course, the procedure to be adopted must depend upon the fact as to the seat and the cause of the obstruction, and here he ventured, with the greatest hesitation, to take issue with Dr. Senn on this point. Dr. Senn said that lumbar colotomy is obsolete. As a matter of fact, it is not obsolete. It is an operation that is performed on the other side of the Atlantic day after day, and will never become obsolete if he can help it. He knew of no operation in surgery, except the simple one of tracheotomy, that affords so much relief and prolongs the patient's life as this. He said that if he himself were the subject of cancer of the rectum, he should most certainly have lumbar colotomy performed.

DR. WM. ORD of London said that he supposed he was called upon as a physician to express the general inadequacy on the part of that branch of the profession to deal with the subject of intestinal obstruction. The function of the physician appeared to him, as has been said before, to come in very early in the case. He must admit that the question of diagnosis is a matter