

## THE INDICATIONS FOR CYSTOSCOPY.\*

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*Mr. President and Gentlemen,*—In a way, you might say that the indications for cystoscopy would be any case which had pain or a feeling of weight in the region of the bladder, and to a great extent I believe that is true in very nearly every such case which comes to us. I believe every such case should be cystoscoped. I have not much sympathy with the notion that the cystoscope ought to be one of the last things employed. I believe it is a more satisfactory thing to do, especially in a badly diseased bladder, than sounding with a catheter. I have seen bad results from a catheter, and I have sometimes seen bad results from a cystoscope, but not very often. But with the exception of acute cystitis, all cases which have these symptoms are almost always cystoscopic cases. I do not believe it is necessary, in the face of a good history, which has come on within a week or ten days, to subject your case to the discomfort of a cystoscopic examination, because your clinical history is generally such that you can make a safe diagnosis, providing that you don't allow a case of acute cystitis to go drifting along until it becomes chronic before doing anything. These are the cases which, after ten days or two weeks, if not getting better, should be cystoscoped without delay. To enlarge upon some of the conditions which especially call for cystoscopic examination, will be the main subject of my talk. To begin with, those of you who do surgery, especially prostatic surgery, have been struck with the conditions that we find two times out of ten, in which, after taking the personal history of the case, you will have your mind made up that it is a prostatic case, and you make an examination, and are surprised to find that there is very little evidence that prostatic hypertrophy is the cause. Sometimes one of these old fellows won't have much hypertrophy; still he may be drawing his urine with a catheter. Now, what would you advise? Would you advise an operation upon the prostate? You cannot do that unless you can find some evidence that the prostate is the cause of the symptoms.

For instance, stone in the bladder, a tumor, and various other conditions might produce much the same symptoms that a hypertrophied prostate would, and the only way of finding out what

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