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The present problems in Abdominal Section; illustrated by a successful case of Double Ovariectomy. By Prof. HORATIO R. STORER, M.D., of Boston, Vice President of the American Medical Association, etc., etc.

It has become unnecessary to discuss the question of whether abdominal section, waiving temporarily its performance for other purposes, is, or is not, a justifiable operation in the case of diseased ovaries; the very large percentage of recoveries now obtained by Spencer Wells, Clay, Keith Koeberlé, and others of lesser note, having decided this point authoritatively. It is therefore useless further to collect statistics, save as they may bear upon other and more special problems that are as yet undecided.

We may safely assume that cystic disease of the ovary cannot be cured by medication, and that its alleged relief by chlorate of potash, &c., &c., has been in cases of spurious pregnancy or other error of diagnosis; that tapping, while temporarily relieving, only serves to render the patients' real condition more hazardous, cases to the contrary being exceptional; that ovariectomy is the measure which as the rule ought to be resorted to, oftener in fact than some of its advocates have dared to do, and that the results already thus attained are equal to those of some of the most common operations of surgery. The point that remains to be solved is this: how can the comparatively small mortality now attending this operation be still farther reduced?

As bearing upon some special points involved in the solution of this question, the details of one of my late cases may prove interesting, the more so perhaps to the profession in Canada, from the fact that the patient was sent to me from one of the provinces.