

of several attacks of acute inflammation within a year. In each attack there was moderate fever, and in the beginning frequent diarrhœa. A small induration over the lower part of the cæcum was distinctly made out; it was slightly tender to pressure, and forward movement of the right thigh was embarrassed. This case was transferred to my surgical colleague, Dr. Parkes, in the belief that an operation should be made. He performed laparotomy, and found some thickened omentum, numerous adhesions, some of which he separated, but neither abscess nor appendicitis. The wound healed promptly."

The two outlines given above include the vast majority of all cases, and if the premises are correct, then these cases are most properly committed to strictly medical treatment, and the only proper treatment is the conservative course already described.

But surgical interference is demanded in certain cases of inflammation in the region under consideration, whether they happen to be called typhlitis, appendicitis, perityphlitis, or by some other name, and the weight of first responsibility is on the physician more than the surgeon.

1. Surgery is imperative in cases of acute inflammation in the cæcal region, with rather protracted high temperature, and with distinct induration, sensitive to pressure, that does not show positive evidence of subsidence within two days, or three or four days from the beginning. This rule becomes more urgent if the induration continues to increase in size and sensitiveness after two days, or if symptoms of general peritonitis occur, or rapid, weak pulse, or rapid respiration. The vast majority of such cases if left to themselves eventuate in abscess in less than a week, and many before that time lead to mortal peritonitis. Some require operation in less than two days from the beginning of the attack, and most of them have perforation of the appendix as early as the beginning of the symptoms.

I am aware that a few cases here characterized do not require operation and would recover without it, but the number is so small compared to those in the greatest peril, to which it is a crime not to offer the benefit of surgery, and the danger of an antiseptic operation is so slight that they constitute no impeachment of the rule.