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HÆMORRHAGES AFTER APPENDICECTOMY.*

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IN a brief review of the literature on this important subject, one finds little beyond isolated reports of cases, and for a general understanding of the subject is directed to what may be gained from the consideration of the broader subject of post-operative gastro-intestinal hæmorrhage.

This is a complication which is not infrequently seen after abdominal operations, and in some mysterious cases may follow any form of operation. That it is more likely to occur following operations upon the stomach, the duodenum, or the gall bladder and bile ducts is a fact well established.

As to the cause of the rare variety following operations other than abdominal, conjecture only provides such explanations as anæmia, cholæmia, other altered blood conditions, or personal idiosyncrasies, including hæmophylia, cirrhotic conditions, nervous influences, anæsthetic after-effects or possible injury to the abdominal viscera from position or accidental pressure. But the importance of these is *nil* as compared with those following abdominal operations.

Of these latter various causative theories have received support from different authorities, and for a discussion of causes one is largely indebted to Moynihan, in his valuable work on abdominal surgery, and to Dr. J. E. Summers, whose collaborative contribution on this subject appears in the *Medical Herald* of November, 1906.

*Read at the Toronto Academy of Medicine.