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APPENDICAL COLIC.

BY A. LAPHORN SMITH, M.D.

Surgeon-in-Chief of the Samaritan Hospital for Women, Montreal.

There is considerable resemblance in many cases between colic in the appendix, and colic in other tubes of the body, where pain is due to spasmodic efforts of the tube to pass something along which meets with an obstruction. In the case of the appendix there is a muscular tube closed at one end which is normally open at the other, and through this opening there is usually free drainage into the caecum. As a rule we do not feel this drainage going on because the tube gets larger towards its open end, so that the secretions from its mucous membrane experience no more difficulty in passing than do the contents of any other portion of the bowel. But when the appendix becomes diseased, its larger end then becomes the smaller one, even in some cases becoming closed altogether, and the liquid contents are either expelled with great difficulty or cannot be expelled at all.

This is much more the case when its contents are abnormal, such for instance as a faecal concretion or a foreign body of some other kind. A very small piece of hard faeces or a grape seed being unable to escape, sets up irritation, and soon a great quantity of altered mucous secretion is poured out; there is in fact a diarrhoea of the appendix. Then the