

As I saw they were anxious to have something done and the indefiniteness cleared up, I had patient removed to the Hospital for operation. So certain was I that there was something further than appendicitis at the bottom of her trouble, although I did not expect to find the pericolic membrane, I opened the abdomen in the medium line. Upon opening I found the entire ascending and transverse colon covered with the bright red vascular veil described by Jackson, and beneath this cobweb, here and there, spots, tags of fat or enlarged lymph glands, as mentioned in his pathological description of the condition. At the lower part of the ascending colon, and enveloping the entire caecum and appendix this had developed into a membrane or apparent pseudo-peritoneum. I cut through this, grasped the base of the appendix, and tied it off. With a great deal of difficulty I then enucleated a very small sclerotic appendix, much as one would draw a finger out of a tight glove. I then loosened up the enveloping vascular veil, but as this was my first experience in operating on a case of this kind, and as the subsequent history of the case showed, I evidently failed to loosen up the membrane sufficiently at the time to give a permanent cure. The patient rallied nicely from the operation, wound healed in a week, and the patient left the hospital in two weeks. She was entirely free of her pain and distress for three weeks, when it began to return gradually, and on the 24th of October I had her again removed to the hospital, where she remained for four weeks. During this time we gave her rest cure, abdominal gymnastics, massage, vibratory and otherwise, anti-fermentative diet, and occasional catharsis. During this time her temperature never went higher than 99.1-5 degrees, excepting on November 13th, when for some unaccountable reason it reached 101 degrees. Most of the time, and sometimes for several successive days, temperature was normal or sub-normal.

Under this treatment pain and tenderness almost entirely disappeared, and she was allowed to go home on November 26th. She had only been home a day or two when the pain again returned with increased severity, and I had her again removed to the hospital on the 6th of December for further observation. The pain became more general, and there gradually developed exquisite tenderness all over the abdomen, more marked just to the right of the umbilicus. The whole abdomen was tender and sore as if it had been bruised by external violence. In fact, the way she expressed it herself was, she felt as if J. L., an acquaintance, and a very large, stout individual, had sat upon her abdomen, crushing and bruising everything inside.