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TREATMENT OF APPENDICITIS.*

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Few subjects have been studied more carefully during the past ten years than appendicitis, and the literature relating to it is so plentiful that the presentation of anything new and original can scarcely be expected. The anatomy of the appendix and of the adjacent organs, and the pathological changes occurring in appendicular inflammation, are so accessible in the literature of the subject that it would be unwarrantable to refer to these at any length in what is intended to be a short clinical paper. The position and shape of the appendix, its limited blood supply and its consequent low vitality, easily account for the frequency with which it becomes diseased, whilst a study of the sequence of morbid processes incident to this affection clearly accounts for and explains the clinical history of the disease. Educated medical men generally agree on all points connected with this subject except the treatment, regarding which there is wide difference of opinion. Many physicians maintain that most cases are amenable to medical treatment, and that surgical interference is rarely advisable, while surgeons consider the affection a surgical one, and nearly always requiring to be

*Read before the Lambton County Medical Association, July 12th, 1899.