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## Original Articles

### THE UNTOWARD RESULTS OF DELAYED OPERATIONS AND OF INCOMPLETE OPERATIONS.\*

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The subject which I have chosen for my paper is of interest to every practitioner of medicine, whether he be a specialist or engaged in general work. I speak from the standpoint of one who has confined his attention to general surgery for a considerable number of years, and there are one or two considerations which prompt one to choose this theme. In the first place, a surgeon, apart from his hospital wards, obtains his patients through a large number of practitioners, and it is quite obvious he must see a larger series of surgical complications than any of the individual physicians who may be of his clientele. It would consequently follow that the surgeon would be in a better position to argue from the general to the particular and would have impressed upon him for example the deleterious effects of undue delay in seeking relief by operation more forcibly than would be appreciated by the practitioner in charge of an individual case. Moreover it is a somewhat delicate matter, when the life of a patient is in grave danger, to argue as strongly as one should that the fatal result, which confronts one as a probable issue, might not have occurred had surgical interference been sought early enough. Many physicians are just as keen for early operative interference in these cases as the

\*Address to the Lakeside Hospital Alumni Association, Cleveland, Ohio, January 18, 1911.