

(*Journ. Med. Assoc.*, June 28th). He denies that the affection is ever truly idiopathic, pointing out that in children the peritoneum is very readily injured, and that in them also slight injuries of the abdomen are more dangerous than in the adult. Many cases apparently idiopathic are also secondary to perityphlitis, which is comparatively common and often overlooked. He attributes the profound prostration and cardiac inhibition characteristic of peritonitis to (1) tension of the peritoneum produced by inflammatory products, with consequent reflex inhibition of the heart; and (2) mechanical interference with the heart's action. He maintains that there is no logical objection to surgical interference, the operation being almost invariably palliative, if not curative—enhancing the chances of recovery to a great degree. No case, unless in *articulo mortis*, should, he says, be allowed to die without such intervention. The incision need not be a large one, and except where perityphlitis is diagnosed (when it is best made along the line of incision for ligature of the common iliac), a median incision, with flushing of the abdominal cavity, is sufficient. He disclaims any intention of discouraging the use of opium, and states that his remarks apply especially to fulminant attacks, and these, although less acute, resist ordinary measures of treatment.

PERSONAL.

DR. JAMES KERR'S many friends, in Winnipeg and the Northwest, will be pleased to learn of his increasing prosperity in Washington, D. C. Evidencing the esteem in which his skill and attainments are held there, comes the word that he has just been appointed chief of the surgical clinic of the Emergency Hospital and Central Dispensary of that city. This is considered the highest surgical appointment in Washington. The institution is supported by Congress and is to immediately occupy its new quarters—a fine building, completely equipped and thoroughly modern in all its details. Dr.

Kerr is also surgeon of the Garfield Memorial Hospital and to the Womens' Dispensary, of Washington.

LIBRARY TABLE.

Messrs. Blakiston, Son & Co., 1012 Walnut St., Philadelphia. The essentials of *Medical Chemistry* by Woody and *Quiz Compend.* *Equine Anatomy and Physiology*, by Ballow. There is a vast amount of information condensed into comparatively few pages in both these little works, and they are admirably adapted for the student's perusal. Dr. Woody's work is of especial value as it places before the reader what it is essential for him to know before being able to pass a chemistry examination, and to cull which from large text books would take much time and study.

Forty-fifth Annual Session of the Medical Department of the University of Buffalo.

Baltimore University.—School of Medicine Annual Announcement.

The Suppression of Consumption, by C. W. Hambleton, M.D.

Ninth Annual Announcement of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago.

A Practical Splint for Inflammatory Joints, by C. F. Stillman, M.D., Chicago.

A NEWSPAPER DIRECTORY FOR CANADA — Messrs. A. McKim & Co., Advertising Agents of Montreal, are preparing what will be the first comprehensive newspaper directory of this country.

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