

IV. CASES SEEN FROM THIRD TO SIXTH DAY.

Cases presenting indications of the beginning circumscription of the disease by adhesions, and which tend to the formation of localized abscess.

Murphy : Fifty per cent. fatal cases terminate before the end of the sixth day.

J. A. Macdougall : After the second day early adhesions are walling in, or lymph sealing a highly dangerous lesion. In reaching and removing the appendix we must approach it by opening the general cavity of the peritoneum, and by breaking down delicate adhesions which have arisen to protect from potent septic influences.

Richardson : Speaks of this time as "too late for the early operation, and too early for the safe late operation," and says "there is no more difficult operation in surgery than that of removing an appendix at this stage without infecting the general peritoneal cavity."

Willy Meyer : On fourth to sixth day a number of patients will be saved under palliative treatment who would die if then operated upon.

Fowler : Operation is safe and advisable.

During this stage operated on 69 ; died, 20.

Died as result of operation, 3. (Post-operative adhesive bands and obstruction).

Died, but not due to operation, 17. Pre-operative septic peritonitis, 15 ; hæmorrhage from iliac, 1 ; obstruction (appendix acting as constricting band), 1.

McBurney : An important and encouraging fact that has not often been referred to is that, although the apparent dangers of causing infection of non-infected part in the course of an operation for a diseased appendix is very great, yet in reality experience has shown this not to be the case. Such has not occurred in a single instance.

From these results we must infer that in expert hands there is no danger of infecting the general peritoneal cavity, and when peritonitis is not already present the death rate is only four per cent.

V. ABSCESS AND LOCAL SUPPURATION.

J. A. Macdougall : In simple appendicitis the gradual formation of a tumor recognizable on or after the third day may disappear quickly, or it may remain tangible for two or three weeks. Such are safe and simple, but under such a guise may appear certain dangerous conditions. The treatment is an unsettled question.