

opening any other serous cavity, or in wounds of the abdomen where there is no injury of the peritoneum. Mr. Tait relates a number of remarkable cases in this paper. One case particularly deserves mention. A lady, æt. 54, had an abdominal section performed for supposed gall stones or possibly cancer of the liver. The liver was found covered with large hard nodules, one of which closely imitated the lump which had led to the diagnosis of distended gall bladder. The case had so much the appearance of malignant disease, that no hopes were given of her recovery. Contrary to expectation, however, the patient completely recovered, and was alive and well several years after. A number of other cases are also given. In no less than three out of four cases of greatly enlarged spleen, the tumour disappeared without more being done than opening the abdomen and examining the growth, and in one case of tumour of head of pancreas, with great emaciation, exploratory incision resulted in entire disappearance of the tumour in five or six weeks, and complete restoration to former health. In the case of supposed cancerous nodules of the liver, the evidence would have been much stronger had Mr. Tait excised a portion for microscopic examination. It is hard to believe that there was malignancy in any of the cases, but the fact remains that the gross clinical appearances were those of malignancy, and that the observers were skilled in recognizing the normal appearance of the organs. It is possible that some of the lesions may have been due to syphilis. In 1891, Dr. J. White, of Philadelphia, published in the *Annals of Surgery* an interesting and exhaustive paper on the "Curative Effects of Operation *per se*," and came to the conclusion that epilepsy, certain abdominal tumours, peritoneal effusions, and also tubercle were benefited by these operations, and thought one of the possible factors was anæsthesia, also psychical influence, relief of tension and reflex action may enter into the therapeutics of these cases. He does not think accident or coincidence explains them.

Pierre Delbet (*Bull. de la Société Alchimique. de Paris*, Oct. and Nov., 1892) reports the case of a child, æt. 2½ years, whose health had been failing for some months. On examina-