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APPENDICITIS.

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Delivered at Annual Meeting of Maritime Medical Association.

Mr. President and Gentlemen :

I have been asked to say something by way of introduction, to a discussion on the subject of "*Appendicitis*." As you know, this is the term which is now applied to a condition of affairs existing in the right iliac region, to which various names have been given in the past and which has superseded typhlitis, perityphlitis, paratyphlitis—localized peritonitis, etc., etc. It seems probable, that although in some few instances the term may be a misnomer, the appendix vermiformis not being involved, yet in the great majority of cases some claiming in 90 p. c., the origin of the trouble is in that apparently insignificant organ, and therefore the use of the name is justifiable. Appendicitis may be said to be a little in the wane in fashionable surgery, at all events it is not as much heard of in the medical and lay newspapers as it was a short time since. It is not probable that the apparent epidemic was a real one, but rather that attention having been drawn to the disease, cases were recognized which were formerly regarded as simple attacks of peritonitis or of localized abscess. And on the other hand we do not hear so much about it *now*, because it has fallen into line as one of the recognized affections and no longer deserves notoriety as a novelty. As to the physiological function of the appendix