

affection, in spite of operation, will always be a very fatal one until some better means of diagnosis are available before collapse sets in. On many occasions the gravity of the case is overlooked until the patient is almost moribund.

In *inflammation of the cæcum and appendix*, surgical interference has been attended in numbers of cases by remarkable success. It is now held by many surgeons that all cases of so-called typhlitis ending in suppuration are due to perforation of the cæcum (rare) or appendix, and that early operation in this most fatal affection is the proper procedure. In some cases the perforated bowel has been closed with sutures or the diseased appendix has been excised. The results have been most satisfactory. It has been attempted to close by operation perforations due to the ulcers in typhoid fever, with but little result; the condition of the patient and the state of the bowel itself render it improbable that much progress will be made in this direction. The operation has been performed by Küssmaul of Strassburg, Bartleet of Birmingham, and Morton of Philadelphia, with fatal result in each case.

In *tubercular peritonitis*, most brilliant results have been effected by operation. The early operations were chiefly cases of mistaken diagnosis for ovarian disease, or were doubtful cases in which an exploratory operation was called for; the good results following these mistakes led to the adoption of incision and drainage as a recognized treatment for this affection. Many remarkable cures are reported, but in the majority of cases this treatment is only palliative.

In *suppurative peritonitis*, the treatment by incision and drainage has also afforded some remarkable results, and in all cases this method should be adopted even if the cause, which is usually perforation of the intestines or appendix, cannot be discovered.

In *perforating gunshot wounds of the abdomen*, good results have been obtained by immediate operation. W. T. Bull and Dennis of New York, and Parkes of Chicago, on this side of the Atlantic, have led the way in showing the profession what excellent results may be obtained by immediate operation. Prof. N.