

and merely disseminates it still further; and besides it forces out friend as well as foe, washing away the healthy leucocytes upon which we depend, and especially those life-saving fibrinous deposits which protect the visceral peritoneum. When, however, as in perforated gastric ulcer, foreign matter is found in the peritoneal cavity, one may irrigate with normal saline at a temperature of about 110 degrees as follows:—After the opening in the stomach has been inverted and closed with mattress sutures, a second incision is made above the pubes or in Douglas' pouch and a large drainage-tube is inserted to the floor of the pelvis. Then the stream of saline is directed downwards through the upper wound and washes out the foreign matter by way of the pelvis.

Again, the wise surgeon never forgets that the diaphragmatic zone is the dangerous area of the peritoneum and should not be interfered with in general septic peritonitis unless it is itself the seat of primary infection, as in the case of a perforated gastric ulcer on the lesser curvature of the stomach. It would seem that here is another argument against lavage, for taking a case of general septic peritonitis produced by that most common of all causes viz., appendicitis—the irrigating stream would be almost certain to carry the colon bacilli up to the diaphragmatic peritoneum where they would be most productive of danger.

The question of *drainage* should now be considered. Drainage, in these cases, to be of value, should be low down, from the flanks or the floor of the pelvis or both and should be used in connection with Fowler's position. My practice, of late years, has been to pass a gauze drain down to the seat of primary infection and then to introduce a large rubber tube down to the floor of the pelvis through an incision either above the pubes or in Douglas' pouch. The small intestines (the second most dangerous area) are prevented from descending into the pelvis by bringing down the omentum and tucking it around them and by filling up the pelvis by dragging into it any adjacent