

described the first operation for cysts of the pancreas, and for many years the surgery of this organ was confined to the treatment of this affection, which was a comparatively easy task so far as the technique was concerned. In regard to the other pancreatic affections, it is only in the last ten years that surgical treatment has been seriously undertaken. Even as late as 1891 and 1892 the anatomists, Von Gerlach and Joessel, dismissed the subject of the topographical anatomy of the pancreas in a few words, stating that the organ had no clinical interest as it was almost impossible for the surgeon to reach it.

Among further reasons for our lack of knowledge in this subject, with the exception of the cystic condition, it is seldom with our present knowledge that we have an opportunity to operate upon a diseased pancreas, hence the personal experience of each surgeon is small. Two additional reasons for the non-development of pancreatic surgery is its anatomical position, surrounded firmly and intricately by such important viscera, vessels and nerves, and, moreover, the present difficulty of diagnosis, so often not made until the post-mortem examination.

A third reason is that operation upon the pancreas is more dangerous than upon any other abdominal organ, and this is added to by the usually low condition of the patient. A still further danger lies in the peculiar physiological character of the gland itself. Two points of consideration here are: (1) On account of the richness of the gland in blood vessels we get severe and protracted hemorrhage, difficult to control. (2) By the escape of the pancreatic secretion from the injured parenchyma of the gland into the gland itself and the abdominal cavity, it causes a most damaging effect upon the gland and upon the abdominal contents by the action of the escaped ferments, principally the action of steapsin upon fat causing fat necrosis, and thus a breeding ground for bacteria, and also preventing the formation of adhesions so desired by the surgeon in confining an infection.

I will give a brief résumé of the disease, its etiology, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment as we know it to-day. In no article or text-book I have read can I find any exhaustive article putting it on a standard medical and surgical basis as other diseases.

It is difficult to separate the purely hemorrhagic and that in which the hemorrhage is preceded by inflammation varying in degree.

*Etiology*—The disease is most commonly found in the middle-aged with a preponderance of males, although McPhedran reports a case in a nine months' child. The victims are usually the subjects of obesity and often addicted to alcohol,