

RESECTION OF THE SPLENIC FLEXURE OF THE COLON, MALIGNANT DISEASE, WITH EXHIBITION OF PATIENT AND SPECIMEN.

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This patient, Mrs. X—, was seen with Dr. Arnott, of Hamilton, on the 6th of March, 1904. He informed me that she had been taken seriously ill three days previously with cramps in her abdomen, sickness of the stomach and vomiting. She had not had any movement of the bowels for three days before her attack. Her abdomen became distended and, in spite of purgatives and high enemas there was no free evacuation. She had had some fever and increased frequency of pulse. When I saw her she was much better, the bowels had moved freely and she said she was nearly well.

Her history, obtained, is as follows: With the exception of one sister, who died of a tumor of the womb, her family history is excellent.

She has had nearly every disease of childhood. She married, had two children, but no miscarriages. During the last 18 years she has been troubled with asthma. The menopause occurred in her forty-sixth year, and was unaccompanied by any particular unpleasantness. She has always worked hard, has been a hearty eater, but was never troubled with any disturbance of the digestive tract till two years ago.

The present illness began quite suddenly in January, 1902. She awoke one morning with crampy pains in the abdomen, nausea and vomiting. The pains were felt especially around the naval and left hypochondriac region. There was some abdominal distension and constipation of the bowels. The bowels acted after a large enema had been given, and fresh blood was seen in the stool.

During the last two years she has had frequent attacks like the one described, which lasted from one or two hours to two and three days. Relief came as soon as the bowels moved, and almost invariably some fresh blood was found in the stools.

Two of these attacks were quite severe, one in October, 1903, which lasted about ten days, and another in January, 1904, which lasted two weeks. It was very difficult to get the bowels moved at that time, and she had considerable fever.