

been freely purged. It has been stated that the results obtained by surgeons in the use of saline purgatives in the treatment of peritonitis have been startlingly brilliant. I am not so sure that this statement is correct. It is not possible to say that those who recovered after an attack of genuine post-operative peritonitis did so as a consequence of the administration of purgatives. I do not believe that the use of saline purgatives will prevent peritonitis after operation. The free movement of the bowels at an early date after the abdomen has been opened is not an indication that peritonitis has been prevented, but is rather an indicator that peritonitis does not exist, and that, as a consequence, a movement of the bowels can be easily obtained. When such a free evacuation of the bowels has been procured the surgeon's mind is relieved and the patient is much more comfortable.

I have not found opium, administered after operation, cause the harm that has been attributed to it by some. I always give sufficient opium to keep the patient from suffering severe pain in order that the vital forces may not be impaired.

In looking over a subject to present to the Toronto Medical Society I thought it would be interesting, not only to myself, but to others, to go back over my surgical experience with general purulent peritonitis. I divided all the abdominal operations performed by me into groups of 500 and in each group selected the cases of general purulent peritonitis, and made a comparative statement of the results.

	Recov.	Deaths.	Total.
General Purulent Peritonitis, caused by --			
Perforation of appendix.....	14	21	35
Perforation of uterus (attempted abortion).....	0	2	2
Gonorrhœa.....	1	1	2
Ruptured pyosalpinx.....	0	2	2
Ruptured pus pocket (appendiceal).....	0	2	2
Perforation of intestine.....	1	0	1
Curettagè of uterus.....	0	1	1
Gangrene of rectum.....	0	1	1
Cause not made out.....	0	1	1
	16	31	47
Cases sponged out and drained.....	0	1	1
Cases sponged out and not drained.....	1	2	3
Cases flushed with water and drained.....	3	27	30
Cases flushed with water and not drained.....	2	0	2
Cases flushed with normal saline and drained....	6	1	7
Cases flushed with normal saline and not drained.	4	0	4
	16	31	47
Of the cases operated on I find --			
Natural diarrhœa.....	2	0	2
Purgatives given.....	3	10	13
Opium and purgatives.....	2	1	3
Opium alone.....	8	6	14
No record of exact treatment.....	1	14	15
	16	31	47