

fulfil his great engagement, an engagement the constitutional importance of which is enhanced by its sanctity. Indeed, it is possible that had he not resisted so strenuously the idea of a postponement of the Coronation ceremonies he might have escaped the ordeal of the surgeon's knife. The ceremonies of the Coronation could hardly fail to prove exhausting, even to a vigorous physique. Yet, despite his pain, the King had braced himself to go through with them at all cost, until, fortunately in time to avert a tragedy, nature proved too strong for him. Men of our nation cannot fail to recognize and admire the courage which fought so nearly to the end and despite all risks that the people might not be disappointed. We all love a brave man, and when His Majesty King Edward VII. resumes his place among his people he will find them moved to the depths of their heart in gratitude for his restoration to them.—(Major portion of Editorial, *Lancet*, June 28.)

CRITICISM FROM PHILADELPHIA.

That the King was ill for several days before the operation was well known, but the public seems not to have suspected that he had appendicitis. His treatment and mode of life during those several days certainly did not indicate it. He was allowed a measure of liberty which is not usually accorded to a patient with this disease. A man with acute appendicitis, or "perityphlitis," is not in a fit condition to be crowned king. The medical world will doubtless be wondering how the evil hour was put off so long, and why in the meantime the sick man was pushed along through the preliminaries for the great state ceremonial.

Whatever the issue may be, the case of King Edward will be looked upon as an awful example. Whatever the responsibility for delay may be, and wherever it may rest, the case will be an object-lesson to the world—not soon to be forgotten—of the dreadful disadvantages that come from delay.

We believe that this responsibility does not rest entirely upon the distinguished men who have had the King's case in charge. Statements in the press, which seem to be authentic, indicate that the royal patient himself opposed the operation until the alternative was bluntly stated to him—the knife or death. The circumstances were altogether extraordinary. A nation was waiting for the consummation of a brilliant and exceptional ceremony. There was every temptation to delay and to take chances. The King himself took the chances, and his surgeons should be exempt.

The object lesson to the world will have this value—that it will teach how little is to be gained by delay and how great a peril is incurred by it. We have recognized for a long time