

A CASE OF APPENDICITIS.

L EVI GOWIN came under my care for operative interference at Hotel Dieu Hospital on March 31st, 1900. He had been sent to the city by Dr. Mather of Tweed.

Seven years ago he had an attack of "inflammation of the bowels." It was quite severe in character and lasted two days. In July '98, he had a second attack somewhat milder in character lasting one day. In July '99 he had a severe attack of appendicitis which lasted seven days. He was attended by Dr. Mather, Tweed, who reported the attack a very serious one. There were great pain, distention of the abdomen, and every evidence of extreme inflammatory action. So profound were the symptoms that a fatal issue was feared. From the time of his recovery from this last attack until he came to the Hospital he enjoyed fairly good health, though troubled occasionally with pain in the right Iliac fossa. The discomfort was much accentuated by work or active exercise. On April 2nd the operation was performed Dr. Mather and Dr. Morrison assisting. There were slight adhesions which gave away without any difficulty. The appendix was withdrawn from the abdominal cavity and was found constricted at the base but much distended throughout its entire length. A ligature was applied and upon cutting away the appendix about a drachm and a half of pus issued therefrom. The patient made an excellent recovery and is now moving about freely. The point of particular interest in this case appeared to me to be the presence of pus in the appendix so long after the last acute attack which as has been noted occurred nearly nine months prior to the operation. With the presence of pus in the appendix the patient's life was certainly in constant danger. While the time for operative interference in appendicitis is a debatable question the history of this case would point to surgical action during or at least after the subsidence of one severe attack.

E. RYAN.