

THE TREATMENT OF APPENDICITIS AND ALLIED BOWEL TROUBLES BY HIGH-UP INJECTION.

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Ex-President of the Association of Health Officers, Member of the American Public Health Association, and Member of the Dominion Medical Association,

To the President and Members of the Fifteenth International Congress:

GENTLEMEN,—At a meeting of the Medical Association held in Toronto on June 6th, 1895, I read a paper showing that the ordinary indiarubber syringe presents several faults of construction. Its vaginal attachment is of such small size that it does not smooth out the mucous folds, and therefore the wash-water or medicine does not reach the irritated or ulcerated surface; the ear-nozzle ought also to be of soft india-rubber as less likely to injure delicate structures. My principal object, however, on the present occasion is to point out that the hard, short nozzle used for the administration of enemata per rectum is in several respects objectionable. Being short, it does not reach far enough to deliver its charge where it would do most good, and, being hard, it impinges on the sphincter muscle and this stimulates to impulsive action; the injection being delivered low down is speedily voided; and little opportunity, therefore, is given for solvent action on the contents of the bowel. I then proposed the using of an elastic indiarubber tube from fifty to sixty inches long and similar in calibre and character to the tube used in washing out the stomach. With such an apparatus, solvents, antiseptics, or purgatives could be introduced at a point to serve the purposes intended. At this time I gave it as my experience that the soft indiarubber tube is not only a valuable agent in the relief of obstinate constipation, impaction of feces, invagination, and muco-enteritis, but it is also of pre-eminent utility in the treatment of appendicitis.

Since writing that paper more than ten years ago I have had abundant opportunity of further observation, and although I have had some very serious cases under treatment I have yet to meet one in which surgical interference was necessary, nor have I one death to record. The emptying of the bowel and the removal of irritating matter are not the only effects of high-up injection, for when the bowel is distended the

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