

SOMETHING ABOUT APPENDICITIS

Able and Somewhat Caustic Essay

BY A FRENCH PHYSICIAN.

(From the Paris Matin.)

It is a long time since appendicitis has been discussed at the Academy of Medicine. True, we have had vacations, and though appendicitis is not idle, the academy supposes it ought to rest during the months of August and September. And, besides, it begins to become difficult to say anything new on a question which for ten years past has made so much ink and blood run. It is Dr. Chauvel, medical inspector of the army, who has belled the cat by a study on the frequency of appendicitis in the French army.

A little detail in passing. During the year 1902 the military hospital received 668 patients afflicted with appendicitis. Out of this number 188 have been treated according to the surgical rite, and 480 have received a purely medical treatment, although according to a celebrated mot, "the medical treatment of appendicitis does not exist." Of the 188 operated on with the knife 23 died; while of the 480 not treated with the knife furnished but five deaths—scarcely 1 per cent. Thus, theoretically, medical treatment does not exist; but practically, medical treatment cures 99 out of a hundred. This is vexatious for the theorists, but not to be treated with contempt by the sick.

The interesting point in the statistical study of M. Chauvel is the comparison which he institutes between the figures furnished by the army of the metropolis and by the army in Algeria. In 1901 the 19th corps of the army of France had 460 cases of appendicitis, very nearly one to every thousand of the effective—to be precise, 0.95; while the 19th corps in Algeria and Tunis had but 32 cases, or 0.44 per thousand, twice less. In 1902 these figures are larger; 619 cases in France, or 1.27 per thousand, and 49 in Algeria, or 0.63. The proportion is smaller in Algeria than in France, and the difference, which is from simple to double, remains exactly the same in 1902 as in 1901.

These statistics not having been manufactured pour les besoins de la cause, we may consider the deductions exact and admit that as a general rule appendicitis is more rare in Algeria than in France. Besides, that is the opinion of all the physicians who practice in our African colony. And M. Chauvel cites the example of a surgeon in very active practice, of a rather enterprising character, who, during a sojourn of five years at the civil and military hospital of Blida, found but a single occasion for operating for appendicitis. Unlucky surgeon!

M. Chauvel pushed yet further his inquiries. Our army in Africa includes Europeans and natives. Legionaries, soldiers of the line and Turcos, are they equals before appendicitis? Or Mohammed, does he kindly extend his protection over the appendixes of his followers? In five years from 1897 to 1902, out of an effective of 14,000 men we have among the French and Europeans 137 cases of appendicitis, or 0.61 per thousand, while in the same space of time out of an effective of 17,000 natives we find but 13 cases, that is, 0.14 per thousand.

By this it appears that appendicitis is two times less frequent among the French soldiers in Algeria than among the French of France, and it is ten times more rare among the native Algerians. The difference is much too great to be accidental. It should have a cause. What is it? Is it an affair of race, of climate, of religion? M. Chauvel thinks it is a question of alimentation.

The Arabs are very sober; they eat little and are above all vegetarians; when they do eat meat they eat it very much cooked. Accordingly, among the native tribes living their ordinary life, appendicitis is almost unknown. If one observes it more frequently among our auxiliaries, sharpshooters and spahis, it is because the regime of the latter is no more the

regime of the Arab, but nearer to that of the French trooper.

This explanation perhaps is not absolutely satisfactory, inasmuch as it does not tell us how and why this relative immunity extends to Europeans transplanted to the soil of Africa, where their alimentary regime hardly differs from the regime of the metropolis; but one may suspect that it has much truth in it. Other observers have signalized this rarity of appendicitis among people less carnivorous than ours. Dr. Snyder, who for ten years past has been attached to the Court of the Shah of Persia, has had to treat but five cases of this malady at Teheran, three of which were Europeans and only two Persians. Dr. Snyder also attributes the rarity of appendicular accidents to the mode of alimentation of the Persians. At Teheran abstinence from pork is obligatory, and the meat of cattle is almost unknown. They hardly eat any meats but mutton and chicken, and those always very much cooked. One of the two Persians attacked by appendicitis was a student recently returned from Paris, and he had continued to feed himself in the European style.

On the other hand, Dr. Matignon, who for five years was physician at the French Embassy at Peking, has not met a single case of appendicitis, either in the missions or in the hospital of Nan-Tang, during the whole of his sojourn in the north of China. Now the Chinese according to Matignon, eat but very little meat. The European alone eats beef. Meat is a luxury which only people in easy circumstances can indulge, and its consumption is very limited. The great majority of the Peking population are nourished mainly by millet simply boiled in water, rice, cabbage, sweet potatoes, pickled turnips. The Chinese eat also much Indian meal and wheat, of which they make cakes with dough not leavened and cooked by steam. Thanks to this regime the Chinese enjoy an admirable liberte du ventre, and that undoubtedly is the cause of their appendicular immunity.

The carnal regime, then, the abuse of meat, appears to be the true cause of this evil. No meat, no appendicitis. And the vegetarians triumph. If appendicitis is less frequent in our rural districts than in cities it is because our peasants are nourished more upon farinaceous food. Dr. Champoussier knew a physician practicing in Brittany, where little meat is consumed; who for a number of years has seen but three cases of appendicitis. In the religious communities where the use of meat is forbidden appendicitis is unknown.

Compare with this the frequency of the disease among Anglo Saxons, the great eaters of beefsteaks and bleeding roasts. In England they do not hesitate to organize insurance companies against appendicitis. In the United States the disease is so common that a Philadelphia surgeon, Dr. Deavers, has recently published under this suggestive title, "A Year of Work in Appendicitis," a personal statistic of 500 cases operated upon by him in one year, from the 1st of September, 1902, to the 1st of September, 1903, or two appendicitis cases per day, supposing that the indefatigable surgeon rested on Sunday!

THE MAN WHO WORKS HARD.

Pereverance and will-power he must have, but whether he has strength and vigor is another consideration. Hard working men usually have irritable nerves and should fortify their systems with a course of Ferrozone, a tonic that rebuilds and revitalizes beyond all telling. It's just wonderful the strength that Ferrozone imparts to broken down men. It forms new blood, supplies the system with abundant nourishment, and where formerly there was tiredness and lassitude Ferrozone establishes a reserve of energy and vim. Try Ferrozone—price 50c. per box.

A FICKLE CONSTITUENCY.

Is North Renfrew where a Local Bye Election is Pending.

North Renfrew, Ontario, in which a local bye-election takes place Dec. 27th, is rather a fickle constituency. It changes from one political love to another with remarkable regularity, and thus the politicians always consider it fighting ground. Since confederation there have been fourteen elections for the

provincial legislature, and in these eight Liberals and six Conservatives were successful. Four of these were bye-elections, and in each case the riding went over into the other column.

Like wise in the elections for the House of Commons, North Renfrew has been on both sides, the seat being held six times by a Conservative and three times by a Liberal. Peter White was elected five successive times, and the present member, Thomas Mackie, Liberal, has held the seat for two terms.

Following is the political record of North Renfrew:

Provincial elections:
1867—John Supple (Con.) beat McAdam (Lib.) 487 maj.
1869 (bye-election)—Thomas Murray (Lib.) beat T. Deacon (Con.), 66 maj.
1871—T. Deacon (Con.) beat T. Murray (Lib.) 152 maj.
1875—T. Deacon (Con.) beat W. Moffat (Lib.), 115 maj.
1879—T. Murray (Lib.) beat T. Deacon (Con.) 104 maj.
1882 (bye-election)—W. B. McAllister, (Con.) acclamation.
1883—T. Murray (Lib.) beat T. Deacon (Con.) 168 maj.
1886—T. Murray (Lib.) beat A. Dunlop (Con.) 86 maj.
1889—A. Dunlop (Con.) beat T. Murray (Lib.) 88 maj.
1892 (bye-election)—H. Barr (Lib.) beat Finlay (Con.), 418 maj.
1894—H. Barr (Lib.) beat Shaw (Con.) 320 maj.
1898—A. T. White (Con.) beat Barr (Lib.) 158 maj.
1900 (bye-election)—J. W. Munro (Lib.) acclamation.
1902—J. W. Munro (Lib.) beat P. White, jr. (Con.), 459 maj.
Dominion elections:
1867—Rankin, Con., 86.
1872—Finlay, Lib., 162.
1874—White, Con., 102.
1878—White, Con., 353.
1882—White, Con., 143.
1887—White, Con., 248.
1891—White, Con., 79.
1896—Mackie, Lib., 63.
1900—Mackie, Lib., 132.

A grain of sand in the eye can cause excruciating agony. A grain of pepper in place of the grain of sand intensifies the torment. The pain is not confined to the organs affected. The whole body feels the shock of that little irritating particle. It is so when there is any derangement or disorder of the delicate womanly organs. The disorder may seem trivial but the whole body feels it. The nervous system is disordered. There are fretfulness, irritability, sullenness and depression of spirits. The general health of woman depends on the local health of the organs peculiarly feminine. Remove the drains, ulcerations, bearing down pains, and other afflictions of woman, and the whole body feels the benefit. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a specific for the diseases that undermine the strength of women. It is free from opium, cocaine and other narcotics, poisons which enter into many other preparations for woman's use. It makes weak women strong and sick women well.

Esquimaux Disappearing.

Ottawa, Dec. 12. — "The liquor obtained by the Esquimaux was the cause of many murders among them, not a season passes without two or three daring their drunken bouts. The numbers of the Esquimaux are decreasing very fast. Last spring at McPherson out of a band of eighty whose settlement was at Herschel Island, some seventy died from measles, thus practically clearing out the entire band. At Richard's Island there were about three hundred but many also died there."

So writes Superintendent Constantine of the Edmonton Mounted Police district in his report of the conditions which he found to exist at the mouth of the Mackenzie River, where he went last summer and established a police post.

RACKING PAIN IN THE JOINTS.

Also every form of rheumatism, neuralgia and sciatica are best cured by Nerviline, the quickest relief for muscular pain yet discovered. It's because Nerviline strikes in and penetrates right to the core of the pain that it gives such unbounded satisfaction. "I caught cold in my shoulders while drying and suffered great pain," writes G. E. Dempsey of Berlin. "I used Nerviline freely and was soon quite well. I have found Nerviline an excellent remedy for rheumatism and neuralgia as well as for cold on the chest. I recommend Nerviline highly and wouldn't be without it." Price 25c.

LIFE OF LONDON

All Corners of Earth Help to Sustain it.

ASTOUNDING FIGURES WHICH SHOW

The Enormous Quantities of Provisions Consumed

ANNUALLY IN THE WORLD'S METROPOLIS.

The most marvellous feature of the life of London is probably the provision, day by day, with the regularity of a machine, of food for its six and a quarter million inhabitants. From every county in the kingdom, and from every country on the globe, says the Daily Mail, flows in a stream of eatables, on a scale so vast as to be almost inconceivable.

In an average year over 4,000,000 sacks of flour and 2,500,000 quarters of wheat come in by rail and sea; one sixth from Great Britain, about one sixth from Canada, Australia, and other colonies, and four sixths chiefly from the United States, Russia and India. Enough of this is retained in London to make close on 2,000,000,000 lbs. of bread, giving about 320 lbs. to every man, woman and child.

To grind the wheat London has 1,600 millers and mill-hands, while there are 13,522 bread, biscuit and cake makers, and 11,516 sellers of bread and confectionery.

It is said that 2 lbs. of bread per day is sufficient to support life, and consequently these two thousand million pounds constitute nearly half of London's food.

But quite as important is meat, the muscle-maker.

Only one-third of the meat used in London is home grown. Each year London increases her dependence on foreign countries. Beef is got from the United States, Argentina, Queensland and New Zealand; mutton from New Zealand, New South Wales, Argentina, and Holland; bacon from Canada, the United States and Denmark. Australia sends 10,000 and Belgium 4,000 tons of rabbits; while most of the foreign poultry comes from the northern ports of Russia.

Altogether, London receives, alive or dead, 9,000,000 cwt., or 1,008,000,000 lbs. Beef is the largest item, amounting to 4,000,000 cwt., mutton and lamb the next, totalling 3,400,000 cwt., while the remaining 1,600,000 cwt. are made up of bacon, pork, hams, rabbits, poultry, and game.

If all this meat were consumed in London every inhabitant would have 160 lbs. per annum; but much of it is distributed to the provinces, so that London's real consumption is about 125 lbs. per head, equal to 782,000,000 lbs. for Greater London.

To deal with the supply of cattle, sheep, and dead meat, London has 278 slaughterers, 947 provision curers, 14,567 butchers, 6,422 provision dealers, as well as 185 cattle, sheep, and pig salesmen, and 316 drovers. These are the figures for the County of London only.

Of fish, the supply is immense. At Billingsgate Market over 180,000 tons, or 403,200,000 lbs., are disposed of in a year. Shadwell deals with seventeen or eighteen thousand tons. And a large quantity is sold by salesmen by private contract. Then there is the fresh-water fish, some twenty thousand hundred weight of salmon, principally from Scotland and Ireland, being sold at Billingsgate, and large quantities otherwise disposed of. There are thirty-six million oysters from Whitstable, Burnham, and Southend, and ten or more millions of foreign oysters. And there is a vast quantity of tinned salmon, sardines, etc., to be added.

Totalling up all sorts of fish it is found that Londoners eat 751 lbs. per head, which is equal to 469,000,000 lbs. for the whole population.

The fish is disposed of by 778 curers, 6,692 fish and poultry dealers, and several thousand costermongers, carriers, porters, etc.

The milk of 345,000 cows is consumed in London, and if we add the cheese and butter to this, probably London takes the produce of three-quarters of a million milch cows. One-third of a pint of milk per day seems a rather small quantity for each inhabitant. But multiplied by 365, and then by the population, it amounts to the enormous quantity of 88,000,000 gallons. This includes the 50,000,000 gallons London gets by rail from the home and midland counties, the 1,000,000 gallons that comes by road from the surrounding country, the 8,000,000 gallons drawn from London's own cows, and the vast quantity of condensed milk which comes principally from Switzerland.

Of butter, London consumes 94,000,000 lbs. a year, which gives every man, woman and child 15 lbs., two thirds of an ounce per day. With the exception of the condensed variety, all our milk comes from English cows; but of butter London gets 90 per cent. from foreign countries—Denmark, Normandy, Australia, Canada, the United States and the Argentine Republic.

Cheese shows a better complexion, for six of the twelve pounds which Londoners eat per head is made at home. The other six pounds come mainly from Canada and the United States, but the higher class cheeses, Gorgonzola, Camembert, Brie, etc., come from the continent. The total consumption of cheese in London is 75,000,000 lbs.

Then there is margarine, of which it is estimated that London people eat 5 lbs. per head in its own name, with probably as much more under the name of Doreet or Brittany butter, say 60,000,000 lbs., total consumption.

The number of eggs eaten is not ascertainable. Each Londoner is supplied with 80 eggs by Russia, Germany, Belgium, France, Denmark and Canada. But what numbers come in from English farms is unknown. If we put it at 80 more, then the total consumption of eggs is 1,000,000,000. Placed end to end they would circle the globe nearly three times.

The thousands of tons of vegetables consumed are incalculable. At least 160 lbs. of potatoes are eaten per head, or a total of 1,000,000,000 lbs., most of which come from Cambridge, Huntingdon and Lincolnshire. Over a million bushels of foreign onions are discharged at the Port of London, but all not kept for consumption. If we add the cabbages, turnips, carrots, beet-root, peas, cauliflowers, artichokes, etc., probably not far short of one million tons of vegetable food is eaten or wasted in London.

Of apples, oranges, lemons, grapes, plums, raisins, currants, nuts and other fruits, 225,000 tons are imported into London, besides the immense home supply.

Lastly, there is sugar, of which London consumes 600,000,000 lbs.; tea, which it uses to the amount of 28,000,000 lbs.; coffee, 6,000,000 lbs.; and cocoa, 7,000,000 lbs.

And for the disposal of these and other similar foods we have 486 sugar refiners, 4,758 jam and sweet makers, 939 cocoa and chocolate makers, 1,259 makers of vinegar, mustard, pickles, etc., and 18,123 grocers.

SNIFFLING AND SNEEZING COLDS

Can be stopped in a few minutes and permanently cured in one hour by inhaling fragrant healing Catarrhazone. No remedy compares with Catarrhazone for cold in the head and nasal catarrh. It soothes and heals the inflamed mucous membranes, prevents sneezing and coughing, clears away the "stuffed up" feeling in the forehead. If you haven't used Catarrhazone get it today and try it on your next cold. You'll be surprised at the efficiency of this delightful inhaler treatment which pleases everyone because it cures so quickly. Complete outfit \$1.00; trial size 25c.

Too Many Fur Coats

to suit our neighbors. Because we made a big show with our fur coats outside yesterday the cotton tail dealer laid a charge against us to take them in. This cotton tail dealer never possessed as much wealth as our fur stock is worth. We are ready to fight him let him go on. M. Fickler & Co.

Prospective Wedding.

The marriage of Miss Jessie Stewart, youngest daughter of Mr. W. Stewart, 24 Chaboillez Square, to Mr. Kennedy Stinson, of St. Andrews, N. B., will take place on Christmas Day at 6 o'clock.—Montreal Herald.

Monkey Brand Soap removes all stains, rust, dirt or tarnish—but won't wash clothes.