

APPENDICITIS: FIFTY CONSECUTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS.

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APPENDICITIS is now so well understood and its treatment so advanced that it is difficult to say anything new about it.

The majority of the cases were operated upon in the Dunedin Hospital, and the balance in private practice. The ages of the patients varied from childhood to old age, but the great majority were in youths whose ages varied from fifteen to twenty-five years. Under fifteen they gradually lessened, and over thirty they rapidly lessened.

One contained an ordinary-sized pin; one contained a spicule of bone; three contained actual cherry-stones; eight contained ovoid faecal concretions varying in size from that of a bean to a large almond; six contained nothing the eye could recognise, excepting evidences of inflammation; and the rest contained gritty faecal matter, offensive fluid, or pus. There were no hairs or bristles, nor orange, apple, passion-fruit, or fig seeds, nor other commonly swallowed, tough, and not easily digested materials. It is quite possible that some of the above articles were present in a broken-down state, but they were not recognised by the naked eye.