TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

NEW YORK SURGICAL SOCIETY.

Stated Meeting, February 24, 1909.

DR. CHARLES N. DOWD in the Chair.

APPENDICITIS, PORTAL PHLEBITIS AND ABSCESS OF THE LIVER.

DR. PARKER SYMS presented a man of thirty-eight who was admitted to the Lebanon Hospital on September 3, 1908, with a typical history of acute appendicitis. The only noteworthy feature of the history was that the patient had had a severe chill on the day before admission.

On September 4 he was operated on by Dr. Henry Roth, who removed an inflamed appendix. There was nothing special about the operation, and apparently nothing unusual about the case. The appendix had not perforated.

After the operation, instead of proceeding toward recovery, as such cases usually did, this patient had a series of chills, with high fever, and presented a typical picture of pyelophlebitis. This condition of chills alternating with high fever lasted many weeks and, finally, there were indications that a local suppurative process had been established. The diagnosis of abscess of the liver was made, and the patient was operated on by Dr. Syms on November 11, 1908. In the right lobe of the liver, two large non-communicating abscesses were found, and, judging by the appearance of the pus, one of the abscesses was of much more recent origin than the other. These abscesses were opened into each other and thoroughly drained.

The patient began to improve from the date of the operation, and continued to complete recovery.

Dr. Syms regarded this as a unique case, as this condition was usually fatal.