

PROSTATECTOMY IN TWO STAGES:

A CONSERVATIVE OPERATION WITH MINIMUM HAZARD.

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It is not the object of this brief communication to present a novel operative technique or original method, but it is simply an observation of personal work performed during the past year in a class of cases of prostatic surgery which may be described as "bad risks," or those which go to make the mortality rate of any operator high.

Statistics of prostatic operations vary so widely, and opinions seem so to differ amongst many surgeons, that one is inclined to wonder what is the real consensus of opinion concerning the hazard of prostatectomy.

Each year this Association has listened to the splendid reports of its able members, and to the brilliant technique which has gradually reduced the mortality percentage of prostatectomy in the last decade at least at the rate of one per cent. per annum; yet it cannot be denied that in some cases it makes little difference how brilliant the operator or how perfect his technique, certain physical conditions exist which cannot be contended against.

Each case has its own personal equation comprehending the important features bearing upon it. Amongst these features of accepted importance we may cite the age and general vitality of the patient. It stands to reason that, other things being equal, statistics confined to patients seventy or eighty years old should show a relatively high degree of mortality. Again, the kidneys bear so important a relation to the immediate condition and future outlook of every prostatic about to be operated upon, that the greater the damage already to these organs