

APPENDICITIS.

DURING the last two or three years an increasing amount of attention has been given to the diagnosis and treatment of inflammation of the *appendix vermiformis* of the colon—the small blind prolongation downwards of the gut, just at the junction of the small and large intestine. It is well known that in this small pouch concretions sometimes lodge, and by their presence set up inflammatory action. From this there may arise the formation of an abscess around the bowel, or the concretion may ulcerate through and so, by its perforation, cause fatal peritonitis. Since more careful attention has been directed to this matter, however, it has been proved that in suitable cases operative measures may be most successful; that is to say, the abdominal cavity is opened, the appendix is secured by a ligature and the ulcerated portion removed. This is, if necessary, followed by washing out the abdomen so as to remove any purulent collection which may have formed, and then the cavity being closed, the subsequent treatment of the case is precisely similar to that of any other abdominal section. The results of these operations have been remarkably good, considering the fact that formerly these cases were inevitably fatal, and that even now they are usually performed quite as a last resource.

HYSTERIA.

THIS term has been rightly designated as the refuge of the ignorant, and there is now little doubt that many cases which are classed under the generic term of hysteria are simply cases of extreme nerve exhaustion. As knowledge increases, the number of patients who fall under this diagnosis becomes gradually less. An excellent illustration of this is given in a very interesting case recently published in an American contemporary, in which a woman 44 years of age was evidently considered for some nine years to have been suffering from this affection. Her symptoms always consisted of more or less difficulty in swallowing, which was relieved for a greater or shorter time by the passage of a bougie. Finally she was attacked by pneumonia and died, and at the *post-mortem* examination it was found that the oesophagus was riddled with small ulcers, two of which had perforated through into the mediastinum, and set up an abscess near the apex of the right lung from which the inflammatory disease had spread. These cases of course are comparatively rare, and the patient undoubtedly also suffered from nervous symptoms which were sometimes so palpably simulated as to afford ground for the suspicion that her difficulty in

swallowing was not real. But with all allowances, it is evident that in obscure cases of nerve disease the diagnosis of hysteria may be too easily made and too long maintained.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Prince of Wales presented to Sir Joseph Lister, Bart., at Marlborough House, on the 9th inst., the Albert Medal accorded to him by His Royal Highness the President and the Council of the Society of Arts for "The discovery and establishment of the antiseptic method of treating wounds and injuries, by which not only has the art of surgery been greatly promoted and human life saved in all parts of the world, but extensive industries have also been created for the supply of materials required for carrying the treatment into effect."

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Sir Joseph Lister was born in 1827. In 1880 he received the medal of the Royal Society, and in the following year gained the prize of the Academy of Paris for the invention mentioned above, which at one time was well known as "Listerism." Sir Joseph is a Surgeon Extraordinary to the Queen, and was created a baronet about twelve years ago.

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The Duke and Duchess of Teck paid a visit to Derby on Wednesday, when her Royal Highness opened a bazaar in aid of the County Hospital and received an address from the Corporation.

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The Duchess of Teck has consented to visit the Chelsea Hospital for Women early in May to open and name a ward, and will receive purses of money from ladies who are willing to aid this charitable institution, which is greatly in need of funds.

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The present year being the fiftieth anniversary of the appointment of the Duke of Cambridge to be a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, of which he is the Grand Master, it is proposed that the members of the Order shall entertain his Royal Highness at dinner on St. George's Day (the 23rd inst.), at the Imperial Institute, at 8 p.m. The Prince of Wales, G.C.M.G., will preside at the dinner.

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