

CORRESPONDENCE

DEFINITION OF MAJOR AND MINOR SURGERY

A QUESTION AND AN ANSWER

ST. PAUL, MINN., April 12, 1917.

ANNALS OF SURGERY,
Philadelphia, Penn.

DEAR SIRs:

By law the State of Minnesota permits osteopaths to practise minor surgery and prohibits them from practising major surgery. The Ramsey County Medical Society has been requested to define just what is meant by minor surgery and what is meant by major surgery. Our Society referred the question to a committee of which I am chairman.

On behalf of the Society and its committee, I wish to thank you in advance for any information which you can furnish us on the subject.

Fraternally yours,

ROBERT EARL.

April 17, 1917.

DR. ROBERT EARL,
1014 Lowry Building,
St. Paul, Minn.

MY DEAR DOCTOR:

Answering your letter of April 12 to the ANNALS OF SURGERY.

As its Editor, I would say that major surgery includes all work requiring a general anæsthetic; all operations which involve openings into the great cavities of the body; all operations in the course of which hazards of severe hemorrhage are possible; all conditions in which the life of the patient is at stake; all conditions which require for their relief manipulations, for the proper performance of which special anatomical knowledge and manipulative skill are essential.

I think these general statements cover pretty generally what is meant by major surgery. You will see that there is still left an abundant field for the practitioner of minor surgery.

Very truly yours,

LEWIS S. PILCHER.