

There is some difference of opinion in the writings of those who have studied the subject, regarding the frequency with which pain is present at some time; yet it might be laid down as about the truth to say that there is pain in at least 90 per cent. of all cases of cancer of the stomach. It is a remarkable fact that a small percentage of cases has no pain whatever. As a symptom, therefore, the presence of pain is of some importance. The pain is generally referred to the stomach region, in some cases, to the lower portion of the abdomen, while in a few it radiates through to the back. The pain may vary from slight and occasional in character to that of being constant and severe.

Another symptom of frequent occurrence is vomiting. To some extent this is met with in nearly 90 per cent. It is very well marked, frequent and severe in 50 per cent. of the cases. Usually it does not make its appearance so early in the disease as pain. In cases where there is considerable dilatation, the patients experience generally a good deal of relief from the vomiting. Undigested foods may lie in the stomach for days. Sometimes the vomiting is shortly after taking food, at other times it is at intervals of days, when the contents of the stomach have become very foul. Vomiting is least pronounced when the disease is on the stomach walls. The vomiting of blood is noticed in about 30 per cent. of all cases.

Dyspeptic symptoms, such as discomfort, belchings, fulness and weight, due to fermentation, catarrh, ulceration and dilatation, are always present when there are stomach symptoms. The appetite may remain good—it is sometimes increased—but the distress after eating restrains the person from indulging freely in food. Anorexia and indigestion are met with in fully 50 per cent. of the cases in their early stages, and in an increasing number up to 100 per cent. in later stages of the disease.

Loss of weight and strength are almost constant symptoms. In a few cases the strength is maintained to an advanced stage of the disease. In active cases, the loss of weight and strength are of early appearance and progressive in character. Even in the more latent cases there is loss of weight and strength, and finally the patients are compelled to abandon all work.

Fever is noted in about 60 per cent. of all. Some authors