

examination of the numerous publications on the subject of Weil's disease, and he came to the conclusion that "the collection of symptoms described by Weil have no specially characteristic significance either in their ætiology, symptomatology or in their anatomical relations. Evidently in the cases described it appears to act as a septic infection in which the poison enters the body from without or from the intestine. The febrile jaundice, the extensive implication of the nervous system, the enlargements of the liver and of the spleen, the albuminuria, are no more characteristic of a special disease than the relapsing type of the fever. Fränkel, therefore, proposes to abolish the name Weil's disease, and to substitute for it that of Infectious or Septic Jaundice.

"The following reasons for regarding this affection as an independent one have been advanced. From acute yellow atrophy of the liver it is distinguished by the swelling of that viscus, by the high temperature, by the simultaneous swelling of the spleen, by the involvement of the kidneys, and by the absence of hæmorrhage; and from catarrhal jaundice by the higher range of temperature and the implication of the spleen, liver and kidneys. It resembles relapsing fever in many respects, especially the variety called by Griesinger bilious typhoid. This disease, however, never exists in sporadic form, and hence may be excluded even in the absence of the important negative evidence that would have been furnished by an examination of the blood for the spirillum of Obermeier. The concurrence of jaundice, apyretic intervals, and distinct relapses, suffices to exclude the view that the affection is an abortive typhoid complicated with jaundice. \* \* \* \* \*

Among the widely-varying symptoms and post-mortem appearances of the numerous cases of 'Weil's disease' now on record, there is nothing distinctive of a hitherto unrecognized disease. On the other hand there is strong evidence that some of them were cases of septic poisoning. In Fränkel's case, which corresponded in all respects with those described by Weil, the point of septic infection was a wound of the head; and in Fedler's cases, at least in the nine butchers, the infection may have entered the system in a similar manner, through cuts and abrasions too slight to attract attention, or through the ingestion of decaying meat." \*