

## CANCER OF ESOPHAGUS

BY W. H. PEPLER, M.D., L.R.C.P. (LOND.), TORONTO.

*Mr. Chairman and Fellows*,—I feel some diffidence in presenting these notes, as you know cancer of the esophagus is by no means a rarity, McCrea giving 9 per cent. of all cancers esophageal, Von Hacker 5.3 per cent. Since the more general use of the X-rays and esophagoscope many cases are being brought to light that would have been overlooked without their aid. Still in this particular case some interesting features prompted me to report it, and to add a few comments thereto.

H. C. A., Cuban, 37 years of age, was referred to me for treatment January 2nd, 1909. His father died at 43 years of age from probably epithelioma of the lip, as the history was that of a sore on the lip, followed by swelling of glands of neck. Family history otherwise negative. Patient born in Cuba, of Cuban parents. He has lived there and in Florida up to twelve years ago, when he came to Canada.

Had smallpox at three years of age. When about the age of twelve years he received a blow in the region of the stomach from a baseball bat, which caused vomiting and pain in the stomach, lasting two or three days. He contracted gonorrhea seventeen years ago; denies any history of lues; was never addicted to the use of alcohol; a moderate smoker of cigars, and is unmarried.

Patient has never complained of any stomach trouble up to four months ago, when he felt a slight ill-defined pain in the xiphoid area, usually in the morning before rising, occasionally during the day, but never referred to the taking of food. It is dull in character, lasting about half an hour, and often relieved by passage of gas. For nearly three months he has noticed a sensation after eating, as if the food did not quite reach the stomach, and then returned a short distance, but was never expelled.

At first only solids, but lately fluids also occasioned this symptom. His appetite always excellent. No great thirst. Occasionally he brings up a little mucus, but no blood. Has lost twelve pounds during the last four months. Patient has dark brown skin, shows the scars left from smallpox, principally on face and neck; is somewhat anemic; has bright, intelligent expression; height, 5 ft. 5 in.; weight, 122 pounds; gait, easy and steady. Speech and voice, natural. Pupils are equal and react regularly. Visual fields normal. Patellar reflexes are present and equal, and he can stand quite well with his eyes shut. No ptosis, nor hoarse-