

Dominion Medical Monthly

And Ontario Medical Journal

Vol. XLV.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1915

No. 6

Original Articles

ORGANIC OBSTRUCTION OF THE ILEUM AS A CAUSE OF GASTRIC DISTURBANCE *

BY GRAHAM CHAMBERS, B.A., M.B., TORONTO, CANADA.

During the last few years a great deal of attention has been devoted to the study of the disorder known as intestinal stasis. This, according to Sir Arbuthnot Lane, who was probably the first to call especial attention to the affection, is characterized by stagnation of the intestinal contents, resulting in the production of toxic material, which is absorbed in greater quantity than the human anatomy has the capacity to render inert or excrete. In consequence there result degenerative changes in various tissues of the body and diminished immunity to infectious diseases. To the direct or indirect action of these disease-producing agents have been ascribed a great number of affections, including various affections of the stomach, gall bladder, liver, pancreas, kidney, skin, nervous system and lungs. Indeed, according to Sir Arbuthnot Lane, intestinal stasis is a direct or indirect cause of disease in every organ of the body.

In the genesis of intestinal stasis, Sir Arbuthnot Lane thinks that caecal stasis is the primary condition, and that this tends to drag down the abdominal viscera with the production of stress on the attachments of the intestines which results in the formation of anatomical abnormalities such as those known as Jackson's membrane and Lane's kinks. He is of the opinion that these bands and kinks frequently lead to stagnation of intestinal contents in the ileum (ileo-stasis), and that it is in this part of the intestinal canal that the production and absorption of toxic substances generally occur.

*Read at the Annual Meeting of the Medical Society of the State of New York, at Buffalo, April 29th, 1915.

