

CASE 1.—E. M., aged 63; female, mother of eight children. Patient had good health until she was fifty-two years of age; since that date has suffered from dyspepsia from time to time. The present attack of indigestion has lasted for four months. She has lost ten pounds in weight, and complains of heaviness and soreness in the epigastrium, constipation, belching of gas, weakness and sleeplessness; appetite is fairly good. The patient was given a test-breakfast, and gastric contents analyzed with the following result: Free HCl + total free HCl, 22; total acidity, 72; both pepsin and rennin active. On examining the abdomen it was found to be flabby, and the right kidney was easily palpated. The stomach was distended with air, and by the lowered positions of the curvatures the ptosis of stomach was easily made out.

Diagnosis—gastroptosis with hyperchlorhydria.

Treatment—abdominal bandage to be worn during the day; a diet of easily digested foods, such as chicken, eggs, scraped meat, rice, bread, butter and milk. She was directed not to eat fruits, pickles, tough meats and coarse vegetables. A mixture of bismuth carbonate, tincture belladonna and aromatic fluid extract of cascara sagrada was given before meals, and a teaspoonful of baking soda in half a glassful of water one hour after meals. Under this treatment the patient rapidly improved, and at the end of four weeks was able to eat an ordinary meal without discomfort.

CASE 2.—S. M., aged 54; mother of six children. About twenty-five years ago, after the birth of one of her children she suffered from indigestion and weakness for nearly a year. She recovered from this attack and enjoyed fairly good health until the month of June, 1899. During that month she received a fright and as a result was confined to her bed for three weeks. During that time she complained of numbness in both legs and arms, and became thin and very weak. She recovered from the numbness, but shortly afterwards began to suffer from indigestion. Belching, heartburn, uneasiness in the stomach, palpitation of the heart, constipation and weakness were her principal symptoms. She consulted me on the 26th February, 1900, and then complained of the above symptoms and was so weak that she was unable to leave her bedroom. She stated that she had lost eighteen pounds in weight during the previous six months. On examining the abdomen I found the lower part very flabby and somewhat pendulous while the epigastrium was depressed. On striking the abdominal wall the splashing sound could be made out over a large area and three or four inches below the umbilicus. By palpation a thickening which was probably the head of the pancreas could be felt, and both the right and left kidneys were found to be freely movable. I inflated the stomach with air and found both the lesser and greater curvatures lower than normal. The former passed obliquely across the abdomen about an inch