

portance practically, relieving our minds from the dread of having to combat an unknown obscure disease; while on the other hand, it impresses the need of a more careful investigation of cases of jaundice than they are usually thought to require, and directs us to a rational and successful *methodus medendi*:—

“SUB-ACUTE INFLAMMATION OF THE LIVER.

“The liver is subject to another form of inflammation, which pervades the whole organ more generally than in acute hepatitis, but is not marked by such severe symptoms. It frequently comes on very insidiously, &c. In a day or two the conjunctiva becomes tinged, and in a few days more, there is universal bright bilious suffusion of the skin—frequently some degree of tenderness about the region of the liver. Cases of the less acute kind generally yield readily to treatment if adopted early, and they form a large proportion of the cases of simple jaundice which present themselves in practice. In other cases, the inflammatory action is attended with much more severe symptoms, with considerable pyrexia, &c., while a jaundice of the most intense colour is diffused over the whole surface. When the disease assumes a more active and febrile form, symptoms referable to the brain and nervous system, and which appear partly to depend on the deleterious effects of bile circulating with the blood, are very strongly marked, &c.

“*Morbid appearances.*—The condition of the liver differs according to the period at which the disease has proved fatal, but, in general, the size of that organ is not materially increased, though, on the contrary, it is not unfrequently perceptibly diminished. There is no accumulation of bile in the minute ducts, &c. On examining the gall-bladder it is found to contain little bile, and sometimes scarcely a trace, &c. When the disease has terminated early, the whole liver feels soft and flaccid, the whole surface appears variegated of a light yellow, and dark red, or purple in patches,—certain portions even undergoing a process of change or disorganization,—through the whole substance of liver. If the disease has not proved fatal at an early period, we find the structure extensively altered, &c. Any decided marks of suppuration are rare, &c. Treatment recommended decidedly antiphlogistic, though generally not severe—general bleeding if febrile symptoms considerable, but usually only local—purgatives and mercury.”

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