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A CASE OF HEPATIC CIRRHOSIS.\*

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The case which I am about to detail came under my notice during a few weeks as *locum tenens* in the Toronto General Hospital, and seemed to me so unusual a form of cirrhosis due to alcoholism as to be worthy of further record.

*Specimens submitted:* Gross, liver, hypertrophic cirrhosis, weight 76 oz. *Microscopic*, same, hardened in alcohol and in chromic acid, stained with alum-cochineal, and some counterstained with fuchsin.

*History of Case:* James McK—, æt. 38, patient in Ward 6, T.G.H., care of Dr. H. C. Burritt, admitted Aug. 29th, died Sept. 4th, 1891.

1. *Family History:* Good, father and mother both healthy and of advanced age.

2. *Personal History:* Occupation, shoemaker; native of North of Ireland; no history of venereal disease or syphilis. His own accounts of his habits as regards alcohol being unsatisfactory, enquiry of the tradesman for whom he had worked for the last ten years revealed the fact that he had, until within the past year, been using alcoholic stimulants to excess; for ten years past, being drunk at least once a week, and

within the past year, perhaps once a month, or on every holiday.

3. *Present Condition:* (a) A large well-formed man, nutrition good, appetite very fair; skin and conjunctivæ markedly icteric; very considerable ascitic distention of abdomen, not extreme, however; œdema of lower limbs, extreme at ankles, and pitting on pressure up to some inches above knees. Not so bad, he said, on admission as it had been. Jaundice was of ten months' standing, ascites and œdema of about three months'. Had been tapped in median line of abdomen some days before, and fistula had been established. House surgeon had sealed it by two fine skin sutures, one at right angles to the other, with iodoform and collodion dressing.

(b) *Nervous System:* Apparently normal; patient bright and talkative, and in good spirits; did not remain in bed till the last of the six days of his stay in the hospital, and then not all day. Even on the last day he was frequently up and at water closet, with strength apparently quite equal to the task.

(c) *Circulatory System:* No marked disturbance. Am not prepared to say that there was no hypertrophy of left heart, as *post mortem* was not allowed. No suspicion of immediate danger having been entertained, no certain account of the heart can be given. There were no valvular lesions.

(d) *Digestive System:* Appetite very fair; gastric digestion good; intestinal digestion impaired by lack of bile, as indicated by whitened

\*Read before the Pathological Society of Toronto.