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CASES OF SUB-PHRENIC ABSCESS.*

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THE following cases illustrate some of the forms of abscess beneath the diaphragm. Three contained air and simulated pyo-pneumothorax; in two, the condition was strikingly similar to empyema. The pus may be either in the cavity of the lesser peritoneum, which is commonly the case when perforation of the posterior wall of the stomach, or of the duodenum, occurs, and the abscess is then chiefly beneath the left half of the diaphragm; or it may be between the right lobe of the liver and the diaphragm, in which case the abscess is really within the general peritoneum, though usually shut off. The abscess may come from perforation of the ascending colon, or of the appendix, or from the liver itself. In the air-containing abscesses the most exquisite simulation of pneumothorax may occur on either side, as in the case which first called my attention to this condition, reported by Dr. Gardner,† of Montreal, in which the signs of

* Read before the Association of American Physicians, May, 1893.

† *Canada Medical and Surgical Journal*, vol. ix.