

CIRRHOSIS OF THE LIVER IN THE YOUNG.*

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Last November I was reminded of the saying that if an odd case of accident or disease happens in one's practice one will shortly see two more, by a series of three enlarged livers which came under my attention within about three weeks. Each patient was a female, and their ages were respectively, 29, 6 and 12 years. As in no case was *post mortem* examination available as a means of imparting exactitude to my research, I may state in advance that I do not pretend to any great scientific value for this paper, and do not even claim that each case mentioned is simply one of cirrhosis. The details of the cases in brief are as follows:

Case 1.—Mrs. A., aged 29, seen in consultation last November with Dr. J. C. Mitchell, of Enniskillen.

Family history.—Unimportant.

Personal history.—First pregnancy three years ago, with icterus and albuminuria at time of delivery, but good recovery and no serious illness before or since, till the present.

Present illness.—Delivered at full term six weeks ago. For some weeks before had jaundice, albuminuria, pallor, anemia, marked breathlessness, and much bronchitis, or at any rate over-secretion from the bronchi. By four weeks after labor, which seemed normal and had caused much temporary relief, she began to suffer again as before.

Present condition.—Temperature, 101-2F.; pulse, 100 to 120; respiration, 30 to 40, pale, breathless, orthopneic, syncopal, jaundiced, but not severely so.

Digestive system.—Tongue clean, blue and cyanotic, appetite poor. Diarrhea nearly constant of late. Spleen much enlarged; liver very large, down to level of navel, smooth, hard and painless. Some ascites, and a good deal of tympanites.

Genito-urinary system.—Urine contains albumin and is scanty and ill smelling (full examination not made).

Circulatory system.—Very anemic (blood examination not made). Heart very rapid, second sound relatively accentuated, some irregular duplication at apex, great dilatation and diffusion of impact, evidently myocardial change.

Respiratory system.—Fine râles here and there all over. Has been some consolidation of left base behind, now clearing up. A moderate effusion exists in left pleural cavity. Death occurred about five days after I saw her. The probable sequence of events here was, I think, as follows:

(a) Toxemia during first pregnancy, shown in both albu-

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