

**COMPLICATED ANAEMIA.**

BY T. J. BIGGS, M. D.

Ruth K——, age 14, American, admitted November 14. Diagnosis: Essential anæmia.

The patient had been sent to me by Dr. B——, who said that, in spite of all treatments employed, his little patient had grown steadily worse, and the parents were well-nigh discouraged. Her condition was associated with menstrual disorders; a year previous she said her disposition seemed to change. She found she was becoming morose and despondent; at times hysterical, and suffering very much from melancholy. Her menstrual order was of the menorrhagic form, her complexion was pallid, waxy, skin puffy without œdema; she was easily fatigued upon the least exertion; the heart was irritable; there was shortness of breath, pulse full, but soft, and at times pulsations in the peripheral veins. There was a disgust for food, imperfect indigestion and occasional attacks of gastralgia. In the right apex there was a suspicious dullness, indicating a possible incipient phthisis. Examination of blood showed a relative decrease in quality and quantity of the hæmoglobin, resulting in the blood being paler than normal. The red corpuscles were lighter in color and showed less tendency to form rouleaux; their character was changed, no being of uniform size, some normal, others small (microcytes), others usually large (macrocytes), others irregularly shaped (poikilocytes). The number of corpuscles to a cubic millimetre was about 2,500,500. The white corpuscles were considerably increased in number. A few granular bodies were present, indicating degeneration of the white corpuscles.

The patient was put to bed, secretions regulated, and a half teaspoonful of bovine was ordered every hour in peptonized milk.

On November 18th the bovine was increased to a tablespoonful every two hours.

November 30th, the bovine was increased to a wine-glassful every two hours, given in peptonized milk, alternating with old port wine. The patient at this time showed some improvement, felt stronger, slept better, digestion seemed excellent, bowels regular, and she slept throughout the night quietly.

December 10th, microscopic examination of the blood showed increased quantity and quality of hæmoglobin, and red blood cells 3,000,000 to the cubic millimetre.