

berton, Copland, Todd, Budd, Trousseau and others, observed this condition, but Reichmann, in 1882, was the first to study this state with our modern methods, and to him is due the credit of investigating the subject from a scientific standpoint. The publications of Riegel, Reichmann, Jaworski, and Glusinski, Ewald, Mathieu, Einhorn and others in recent years, have given us a great deal of information on a subject which was almost lost sight of, though observed so long ago by Pemberton, Budd, Trousseau and others.

It is the intention of the writer to consider the subject from a purely clinical point of view, calling attention to three classes of cases recognized by recent writers. These are:

(1) Simple hyperchlorhydria, which is present only during digestion, and absent when the patient is fasting.

(2) Hyperchlorhydria occurring in attacks like gastric crises or fits of migraine.

(3) Hyperchlorhydria accompanied by hypersecretion, both during fasting and after meals, and by dilatation of the stomach (Reichmann's disease).

It is very hard to draw the line accurately and say just where normal secretion ceases and excessive secretion begins. Ewald, Einhorn and others say that the normal degree of acidity of the gastric contents in healthy subjects one hour after Ewald's test breakfast is from 40 to 60, and have considered cases in which the acidity was between 60 and 70, or above 70, as pathological. The fact remains that it is impossible to say that some could not have a degree of acidity of more than 70, or even 100, continuously, and not suffer subjective symptoms. If there were no symptoms referable to the stomach, it is unlikely that an examination of the stomach contents would be made, and, therefore, the degree of acidity would not be recognized. From a large experience Einhorn says that though this would be possible the rule is that the greater number of patients with an acidity of 70 are not totally free from disorders of digestion. Generally speaking, therefore, we may conclude that a degree of acidity above 70 is pathological.

*Etiology.* The etiology of the different forms of hyperchlorhydria may be discussed in common. The disease occurs more frequently in adult life. The young are not exempt, and it is not uncommon among the old. Those who are neuræsthenic or neuropathic are often victims. Those given to abuse of alcohol sometimes suffer. It is more common among the wealthy and educated classes, among those who lead an indulgent, lazy life, who eat highly spiced foods, drink alcohol, and retire at unreasonable hours.