

*Sex.*—The female sex is about five times more subject than the male. for example, 4.4 per cent. in men, 20.6 per cent. in women (Schroëder),

*Pregnancy.*—Out of 115 women in whom gall stones were found, no fewer than 90 per cent. had borne children (Schröeder).

*Tight-lacing.*—The same observer found gall stones in more than one-half of women whose livers showed any evidence of tight-lacing transverse furrows.

*Laxity of Abdominal Walls.*—By allowing the liver to fall down, so that the fundus of the gall bladder is considerably below the level of the junction of the cystic duct with the hepatic duct, favours the retention of bile in the gall-bladder.

*Diminished Movements of Diaphragm.*—The expulsion of bile is at all times greatly influenced by movements of the diaphragm, and any restriction in the range of its movements correspondingly favours its retention. This is probably the way in which pregnancy operates in favouring the production of gall stones; as also tight-lacing, and sedentary habits.

*Sedentary Habits.*—It is this factor which probably induces the liability to gall stones seen with advancing age, also seen in inmates of lunatic asylums.

*Heredity* is regarded as a factor by some; on insufficient evidence, however, I consider. Out of 165 cases, Bouchard found a parental history of gall stones in 36.

*Gout* is also regarded as favouring cholelithiasis. In 95, out of 166 cases Senac found a history of hereditary or acquired gout (1895). On the other hand Bouchard only found it in 13 out of 165 cases.

*Influence of Food.*—Habits of life as regards character of food and water have been regarded as factors in producing gall stones; also as serving to explain the greater frequency of cholelithiasis in different countries and in different parts of the same country. On this point no definite data are, I consider, forthcoming. We are dealing with impressions rather than with facts. As a matter of fact cholelithiasis occurs in every rank and class of society; in the poor and sparsely nourished as much as in the obese and over-fed.

#### INFLUENCE OF DISEASE.

*Insanity.*—Inmates of asylums are prone to gall stones; doubtless in consequence of the sluggish, apathetic habit so characteristic of many forms of insanity.

*Heart Disease* seems to favour occurrence of gall stones. Out of 49 cases, no fewer than 27 were found to suffer from cardiac lesions (Brockbank).