

rhoids which I have just shown you, is what patients will sometimes speak to you of as blind piles, because they are not so liable to bleed as a class, which we will presently consider.

Let us now examine these tumors as to their anatomical nature, and we find this will vary according as they are examined just after their formation or after some interval has elapsed, and they have undergone pathological changes. At first they consist solely of an enlarged varicose hæmorrhoidal vein. After a time, if neglected and they become the seat of frequent inflammation, we will find that lymph has been poured out in the areolar tissue around these veins, and as a result the size of the growth has increased, and the vein may be so compressed as greatly to diminish its calibre, and at times entirely to obliterate it, so you may find nothing but infiltrated tissue and hypertrophied integument, such as you see in the patient before you. Again, these veins may rupture, extravasating blood into the areolar tissue, giving rise to a tumor in which you will find no vein entering into its formation—Merely coagulated blood. This condition if properly cared for, will often disappear by absorption; yet if constantly subjected to irritation, we shall find that as a result these hypertrophies, or tags of integument, which we so often see about the verge of the anus, will likewise be formed.

With this affection, as with all others, we will meet with them in different conditions. When subjected to little or no irritation, patients will often disregard them, they perhaps giving rise to little or no inconvenience. When attacked by inflammation the case will be very different, and the appearance of the parts will be different from those we have described. You will then observe:

The tumors very much swollen, of a reddish hue; the mucous membrane somewhat prolapsed, or rather everted and cedematous, and the parts extremely painful to the touch, and the neighboring organs, such as the uterus and bladder, at fault, through what we term sympathy, and to so great an extent that often these latter organs are regarded as the ones diseased, while the true source of trouble is neglected. How common is this affection, you will soon discover when you commence to practise, if you already are not aware of it. You will examine very few patients who have reached the middle period of life without finding some trace of hæmorrhoids, should you seek for them. Yet in a large portion the affection may be so slight as never to have given any great inconvenience.

Now, what are the causes that will give rise to so frequent a trouble? The list might be made a very numerous one; but it can be condensed into this—anything that will offer an impediment to the venous circulation of the pelvic organs will sooner or later cause hæmorrhoids. Thus you observe it in connection with

pregnancy, enlargement of the uterus from any cause, displacements of that organ; affections of the bladder, prostate, or urethra; constipation; the abuse of drastic cathartics, or the irritation of the anus from prolonged riding in the saddle, or the use of improper substances for detergent purposes. A very common cause you will find to be want of proper exercise; hence its frequency in those of sedentary habits, as well as in those whose occupation keeps them standing for many consecutive hours.

The symptoms which announce the presence of external hæmorrhoids are various. It may be only the presence of the tumor which the person detects, or a sense of uneasiness in walking or sitting down; uneasy sensation while defecating; the presence perhaps of a little blood; a sense of weight or bearing down, or perhaps itching about the anus, and this is a symptom which in some patients is most annoying. In some it occurs chiefly after they have retired to bed, while others are often annoyed by it through the day.

In the management of this affection, you will find a great many remedies—so called. In very many of your cases you can relieve, if not entirely cure, your patients, by properly seeking for the exciting cause of the trouble in each individual case, and then subjecting your patient to the proper treatment for that. If it be due, for example to stricture of the urethra, relieve the stricture and the hæmorrhoids will soon cease from troubling. Do not imagine for an instant that every patient who labors from hæmorrhoids must be subjected to an operation before he can be relieved from his trouble. Not at all; though in very many instances I grant you that nothing short of an operation will offer any promise of permanent relief, and in these instances all the remedies that patients apply of their own accord, and which physicians often advise, tend but too often to perpetuate the trouble.

For the treatment of an ordinary case of external piles, when they are not inflamed, a little care on the part of your patient in avoiding those causes which so frequently give rise to them, viz., constipation, the use of stimulating drinks and highly seasoned food, with frequent ablutions, and if it be the first intimation of hæmorrhoidal difficulty, under such a plan of treatment the tumors may altogether disappear.

Under the head of remedies, I should place the free use of cold water, used both externally and as an enema. As an enema I believe you will find it most efficacious when used in the morning, just before the bowels are moved. When constipation is the habit of your patient, you may resort to saline aperients, such as potass bitart, the different preparations of magnesia and sulphur. If you combine several of these remedies in your prescription, and give it in desert spoonfuls in a tumbler of water be