

THE CANADA LANCET.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SCIENCE,
CRITICISM AND NEWS.

VOL. XVIII. TORONTO, JULY, 1886. No. 11.

Original Communications.

ACUTE SUPPURATIVE HEPATITIS, CONSEQUENT UPON COMPLETE OBLITERATION OF THE GALL BLADDER.

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GENTLEMEN,—The following case is of peculiar interest, on account of the part implicated, as revealed by post mortem examination; the length of time which a man may live without a gall bladder, and the few morbid symptoms which such a condition manifests. I had known the individual of whom I write for perhaps over thirty years, and during that period I had always regarded him, and he had been regarded by others, as an average healthy man. He was a farmer, and consequently had plenty of out-door exercise and coarse healthy food; and he belonged to that peculiar class of people, who, although they do a sufficient quantity of work, are never apt to hurt themselves by over-work. There was nothing in the situation of his home, or in his mode of home-life, differing from that of other farmers around him; he lived, in fact, "a quiet uneventful life." A tavern was kept nearly opposite to his house—the house in which he was born and lived the whole of his lifetime; he was far from being, what in common parlance is termed "a drunkard," yet he did not object to the taste of beer or whiskey; and it is doubtful if ever a day passed without his having "wet his whistle" with one or both of the seductive beverages.

He was a man of medium size, light-complexioned, and spare in body, and for a few years back had seemed to me to wear a sallow, worn, and somewhat cadaveric look, although he made no special complaint of being in any way unwell.

* Read before the Ont. Med. Ass'n, Toronto, June, 1886.

When I made the post mortem examination, after having discovered the condition of the liver and its appendages, I inquired particularly of his wife of what he complained whenever he did make complaints. Her answer was to the effect that he scarcely ever made any complaint of being sick, excepting that occasionally, during the last nine years, he would have what they called "bilious attacks," during which attacks he would complain of pains across him, turn sick at his stomach and generally vomit a little. In a short time this state of affairs would pass away, and he would again return to his accustomed state of health. None of his neighbors or acquaintances had ever heard him complain of being sick, and they all looked upon him as healthy, tough and "wiry," equal to, if not beyond, the average of men.

Symptoms during sickness.—For these I am chiefly indebted to Dr. J. W. Patterson, of Harrowsmith (now of Toronto), as he was the regularly attendant physician, and I was present only in consultation with him. His report is as follows: G. P., æt. 48; habits regular; used tobacco largely; consumed regularly every day more or less spirituous or malt liquors; had generally a good appetite; rather inclined to constipation; was able to attend to his business as a farmer constantly; although for the last eighteen or twenty months his appetite and strength had not been entirely up to the mark. He was called to see him on the night between the 4th and 5th of March, and found him suffering from symptoms of a "heavy cold," *i. e.*, pains all over the body, severe in the back, and more especially in the lumbar region; urine scanty, very high colored; slight thirst; tongue slightly coated, but red; temperature about 100°, and great restlessness.

Doctor Patterson ordered some hot applications to the back, gave a mild diuretic and a Dover's powder to ease pain and produce diaphoresis, and procure rest. Being called again on the 7th of March, he found quite a different set of symptoms. There was pain in the epigastric and right hypochondriac regions; severe chills occurring at irregular intervals, from two to four times in the twenty-four hours; constipated bowels, with nearly a porter-colored urine; temperature 100.5°; complete anorexia; occasional vomiting, with soreness on pressure over the region of the stomach and liver; pulse about 96. The doctor diagnosed cir-