

In the one case, the tissues are over-manured, but badly drained; in the other they are well enough drained, but not manured at all.

I will show you first an example of the second class.

This man is thirty years old, a policeman by occupation. He tells us that his health has been good until within the last year. During this time he has gradually lost flesh, strength, and colour. His appetite is sometimes good, sometimes not; occasionally there is slight nausea in the morning. He has a dull, uncomfortable feeling in the head much of the time. There is a dull pain in the right hypochondriac region. His bowels are constipated. During the year he has consumed a large quantity of medicine at different times. His urine is normal, except for an increased amount of oxalate of lime.

You may see that his face is thin, pale, and anxious. He is very much alarmed about himself. This man's condition I believe to be due to the fact that his liver does not properly perform its functions of excreting bile. This is felt in two ways. There is insufficient assimilation of fat and peptones, and the large intestine does not feel the natural stimulus of the excrementitious bile.

Some of the patients belonging to this class are much troubled with flatulence.

Headache is a very common symptom and often very distressing. Curious nervous feelings in different parts of the body are often complained of. The patients say that the top of their heads feel like ice, or that they have cold chills down the back or limbs, or pricking sensations in the skin, or a feeling of constriction about the body. Very often they are much troubled by sleeplessness. They are very apt to be much disturbed about their own condition, and even to become very hypochondriacal.

There may be irregular action of the heart and pain in the precordial region. There is also often dull pain in the right hypochondriac region, which may extend into the back and shoulder.

The bowels are usually constipated. The patients lose flesh and strength. The urine is normal, or contains an increased amount of oxalate of lime, or sometimes stellate crystals of phosphate of lime.

This condition is often very intractable to treatment, and always requires continuous and systematic care.

The diet is to be carefully regulated, but should be full and nutritious. Wines, ales, and spirits are often of service. Cream and even cod-liver oil are sometimes indicated.

To relieve the constipation, strychnia, aloes, sulphate of magnesia, rhubarb, and podophyllin answer a good purpose. Bromide of potash, assafoetida, and guarana are of service in allaying the nervous symptoms and restlessness. To improve the appetite and act as a tonic nothing is better than the mineral acids. Exercise in the open air is to be insisted upon, and, in young persons, bathing the entire body, every day, with cold water.

The general principle which you bear in mind in treating these cases is that their symptoms depend on the failure of the liver to perform its share in the process of digestion, and as a result of this, the fact that the entire body is insufficiently nourished.

You must also remember that the various pains and uncomfortable feeling from which these patients suffer give rise to many errors of diagnosis. Congestion of the brain, paraplegia, uterine disease, heart disease, pulmonary phthisis, are all ascribed, not so very infrequently, to patients suffering from liver dyspepsia alone.

In the first class of cases of abnormal liver function, the appearance of the patients differs widely from that of the patients of whom we have just been speaking. These patients are stout and well-developed, often of rosy, florid appearance. They are usually persons who live well, drink, and use tobacco freely. They may even be in the habit of taking a good deal of exercise.

In spite of their healthy appearance, however, we find the same depression of spirits and tendency to hypochondriasis. They are liable to headache, but more so to attacks of vertigo. These attacks of vertigo may be so severe that they fall to the ground and lose consciousness.

The appetite is usually good. The bowels are sometimes constipated, sometimes regular. There is often an occasional diarrhoea from very slight causes. The urine is very apt