

localized pain, but rather a general feeling of tenderness diffused over the whole region of the stomach.

In ulcer pain is almost a constant symptom, increased upon taking food and relieved by vomiting. The pain is sharper than in gastritis, localized—somewhat of a boring or gnawing character, and frequently felt in the back behind the stomach.

In cancer pain may be entirely absent, but when present is more localized than in gastritis, but is not to as great an extent relieved by vomiting as is the pain of ulcer. It is not so constant as the pain of ulcer, and is not so uniformly aggravated as is that pain by the ingestion of food. At times, however, this pain may be severe, lancinating in character.

As to the time of the occurrence of the pain, in general terms it may be stated that the pain of gastritis, which is due to the distention and irritation of the stomach by the products of fermentation, does not come on for at least half an hour after the ingestion of food. The pain of ulcer is usually aggravated immediately after the patient eats, and in cancer the pain is also intensified by the taking of food.

Other symptoms might be referred to, such as irregularities in appetite, eructations of gases, pyrosis, palpitation, drowsiness, constipation and diarrhoea. As these symptoms are not so much complained of and have not as much value for differential diagnosis, I will content myself with their mere mention.

II. THE PHYSICAL SIGNS.—In making a physical examination of the stomach we employ Inspection, Palpation, Percussion and Auscultation.

1. *Inspection*.—The best position for the inspection of the stomach is behind and above the head of the patient, who should be lying on his back, with the abdomen bare. In this position, if the abdominal walls are not very thick, and if the stomach is well distended, its outlines may be distinctly seen. If the lower curvature is visible below the umbilicus the stomach is dilated, and if a swelling is noticeable at the pylorus there is in all probability a malignant growth in that region. In order to outline the stomach more effectually it may be distended either by pumping air into it through a stomach tube, or by causing the patient to take separately a drachm and a half of Bicarbonate of Soda and Tartaric Acid dissolved in water. This I will now administer to