

THE Canadian Journal of Medical Science.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN MEDICAL SCIENCE, CRITICISM, AND NEWS.

U. OGDEN, M.D.,
EDITOR.

R. ZIMMERMAN, M.B., L.R.C.P., London,
107 Church Street, Toronto, Corresponding Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$3 PER ANNUM.

All Communications, Letters and Exchanges must be addressed to the Corresponding Editor,

TORONTO, APRIL, 1876.

Selections: Medicine.

REMARKS ON

A CASE ILLUSTRATING THE OCCASIONAL PROTRACTED COURSE OF MALIGNANT (SCIRRHOUS) DISEASE OF THE STOMACH.

BY I. BURNEY YEO, M.D., M.R.C.P.,

*Senior Assistant Physician to King's College Hospital;
Assistant Physician to the Brompton Hospital.*

The following case, besides being interesting in many of its details, affords proof of a fact which is perhaps not very widely known—viz., that scirrhus disease of the stomach occasionally runs a very protracted course, and extends over a period of ten, fifteen, or even twenty years. The patient in question died in 1874; he first suffered severe gastric pain in 1857.

For the first part of the history of this case I am indebted to the kindness of Dr. Wilson Fox, who was consulted by the patient in August, 1868, he being at that time fifty-five years of age.

The following are Dr. Wilson Fox's notes:—"He first felt severe gastric pain in 1857, relieved by sulphuric acid, but it continued at intervals until 1861, when it increased in severity and became attended by acid vomiting. The vomited matters were never black or bloody. Fæces at this time black but not tarry; appetite lost. In the spring of 1868, after suffering from pain, great weakness, and loss of appetite, he suddenly became faint. The stomach became distended and painful, and the pain radiated across the chest. At this time he passed tarry stools repeatedly on several occasions, and they

were seen, certainly on one occasion, by Dr. Grimsdale, of Liverpool. He suffered from frequent vomiting after food. His attacks of vomiting were associated with anorexia; these attacks would last for about a week, when the appetite would return and become ravenous. The vomited matters were acid, but not frothy, nor had they even the appearance of coffee-grounds. There was no increase of pain before passing the tarry evacuations. He stated that the pain in 1861 used to be relieved by eating, and would return three or four hours after food."

Dr. Fox further noted that the patient presented at this time an appearance of intense pallor; that there was no tenderness or tumor in the region of the stomach; that there were no piles, though he had suffered from them some years ago. The diagnosis was "carcinoma ventriculi."

The patient first consulted me in November, 1870, and complained of symptoms of dyspepsia. He told me of the unfavourable opinion Dr. Wilson Fox had formed of his case in 1868, but added that he had subsequently consulted a very eminent physician in London, who had given him a more favourable opinion, which he was himself disposed to accept—viz., that he was suffering from functional dyspepsia.

He was a gentleman of very great energy both of body and mind; he was in the habit of taking very active exercise, and of consuming a large amount of food, and his chief trouble was severe pain, with flatulence and acid eructations on going to bed at night—i.e., three or four hours after his dinner.

There was no tenderness or tumour in the region of the stomach or over any part of the