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GASTRIC ULCER—WITH ENTIRE SUPPRESSION OF URINE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.*

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Miss —, aged 22, a young lady of rather robust appearance, although a member of a family not at all vigorous in constitution, had been complaining for some time prior to October 1st, 1875, when I was called to see her for the first time.

Inability to take much food—pain in the region of the stomach, with occasional sickness, and vomiting after eating, were the symptoms complained of. Suspecting mischief in the stomach I enjoined the greatest possible care as to diet, regulating the quantity carefully, and directing the avoidance of anything which would tend to keep up, or increase the existing irritation. I prescribed milk and lime water from time to time in small quantities, as a drink, and a mixture, containing salicin and bismuth. Under this simple treatment, the symptoms very soon presented a marked improvement. But the patient having unthinkingly, and without my being consulted, employed herself in some slight housework, became sick while so engaged, and having vomited a large quantity of dark-coloured fluid, fell on the floor in a state of syncope.

On being summoned I saw at once that excessive hemorrhage from the stomach had occurred. The real and most serious nature of the case, only strongly suspected hitherto, was now certain; one or more ulcers of the stomach being undoubtedly present. The quantity of blood vomited at this time was very large, not less than from 2 to 2½ pints.

I at once enjoined the most absolute rest, and directed the most careful regimen. As a drink, nothing but milk and lime water, and this in very

small quantities at a time, and no solid food of any kind was to be taken. A mixture was prescribed containing a few drops of turpentine, and a little salicin with mucilage, the whole dose being a small teaspoonful. As much tenderness over the epigastrium was now complained of, it was ordered to be painted with fluid extract of Belladonna.

All the symptoms underwent a favorable change—very little vomiting occurring, and what there was, only very slightly tinged with blood. The epigastric pain greatly abated, and as time passed on the quantity of milk taken was gradually increased and began to be not only well borne, but much relished. Strict rest was continuously maintained on the sofa by day and in bed by night, and notwithstanding the alarming hemorrhage at first, the case seemed highly promising.

The hemorrhage had blanched the patient much, and notwithstanding the improvement in digestion, and the subsidence of the more marked gastric symptoms, she became somewhat puffy about the face and limbs. Her urine was, however, passed pretty freely, and was of normal sp. gr. and not albuminous. By attention to the action of the skin, and by continuing to strengthen the system, the slight anasarca condition passed away; but as it did, singularly enough the gastric symptoms began to reappear. A number of weeks had now passed, and as the patient's digestion had improved and her sufferings abated, she ventured of her own accord upon a very little of such food as was on the table from time to time, and Christmas time being near, went so far, very foolishly, and quite unknown to me, as to eat a few nuts and raisins, and a little plum pudding. I had very often cautioned her and her friends about the danger of any indulgences whatever, but the excuse was that she was so much better, and that very little had been taken of anything beyond what was allowed. But shortly after tasting the Christmas luxuries, the gastric symptoms returned, and became again painfully urgent. Sickness and vomiting once more occurred on taking even a very small quantity of the food which had been of late agreeing so well with her, and the epigastric pain again became very severe.

This marked and rapid increase of gastric irritability most unmistakeably shewed that the reparation, which appeared to have begun, had ceased, and that ulceration was again making perhaps rapid

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