

the aortic wall. The horizontal limb measured  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and the vertical one, one inch. The horizontal limb alone perforated all the coats of the vessel, while the vertical one passed only as deep as the media. The rent was sharp, as if cut by a knife, and 500 cc. of blood had escaped into the pericardium. Microscopical examination of the aorta, at the site of lesion, showed no pathological change, and arterio-sclerosis was not present in any part of the vessel. The author is inclined to believe that the main damage was done a day or two previous to death.

That the smaller vessels, mainly the capillaries, do rupture by excessive heart action is not infrequently seen in cases of death from violence when numerous petechial hæmorrhages are found on the various surfaces of the body, but it is most unusual that the strong arteries should break without previous disease in them.

GEORGE G. PACKE, M.A., M.B. "The Etiology and Morbid Anatomy of Cancer of the Stomach." *Medical Chronicle*, 1907, XLV, p. 213.

The author has compiled his report from the post mortem records of St. George's Hospital, London. These reports cover a period of ten years (1890-1900), but the author does not state the number of autopsies represented in all.

Of the internal organs, the stomach is most frequently affected with cancer, and, next, in order of frequency, is the œsophagus, while his reports show that the uterus is only ninth in frequency.

It is generally accepted that cancer of the various organs is increasing in frequency, and the author finds that the ratios of increase of primary cancer of the stomach are out of proportion to the ratios of increase of primary cancer elsewhere. This increase in the proportion of primary cancers is partly ascribed to improved methods of diagnosis, but cannot be entirely explained on that ground. Males are most frequently affected, being in the proportion of 1.85 to 1 of females. The age incidence was from sixteen to eighty years, with an average of 49.3 years. The average for male cases was about 51 years.

The author finds that a previous family history of cancer lends little assistance as an etiological factor, for, in 119 cases, there were only eight cases with a family history of cancer, none of which were of the stomach. He points out that the occurrence of syphilis and cancer is unusual, four only of his 228 cases gave this combination. He finds that occupation does not play any part in the etiology of the disease. There is, however, a relation between gastric ulcer and cancer of the