

eliminated, as possible causes of this attack of jaundice. Passive congestion cannot be a cause, as heart and lungs are in a normal condition.

Hence it belongs to the hepatogenous group, and depends on some form of obstruction.

This may be some form of foreign body in the common duct, such as gallstones, parasites, inspissated bile, ulceration of the common bile ducts, or duodenum, tumors, impacted fæces, pregnant uterus, enlargement of kidneys, aneurism of hepatic artery, etc. The passage of a gallstone usually means a sudden attack of biliary colic, followed by an attack of jaundice, which becomes permanent if there is impaction; and, moreover, it is usually an affection of middle or late adult life, and is apt to run in families, and especially those of gouty tendencies who lead a sedentary life, live high, consume much sugar, carbohydrates or hydro-carbonaceous food, and take little exercise. Cancer of the bile passage or of the head of the pancreas or the pylorus, or when secondary in the lymph glands, and pressing from without, is a more or less chronic painful disease of late adult life.

Lumbricoid worms, liver flukes and ecchinococci are very rare causes, and might be considered if the case proved to be one of persistent jaundice and enlarging liver. There are no enlarged glands or tumors to be made out which by pressure on the duct would stop the flow of bile.

We must therefore regard this case as one of catarrhal jaundice, the variety you will most commonly meet with. This affection is usually the result of an attack of acute gastro-duodenitis, which closes the opening of the ductus communis choledochus in the duodenum by swelling of the parts, or by a plug of inspissated mucus in the diverticulum of Vater, and brought on by some error in diet, or possibly the result of exposure to cold, or, as some authorities have suggested, a specific pathogenic cause may act in some cases, especially when it occurs in epidemic or endemic proportions; but it must be distinguished from Weil's disease, an affection known only during the last few years, and which is supposed to be undoubtedly a specific disease; it occurs in the summer months, attacks mostly young and middle-aged men, and especially butchers. It begins suddenly with chills, fever, and headache, with jaundice on the third day, sometimes stupor and delirium, enlargement of the liver and spleen, albuminuria, diarrhoea and violent pain in the muscles, especially of the calves; recovery occurs in from one to