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HYPERCHLORHYDRIA.*

BY H. J. HAMILTON, M.B., L.R.C.P. LOND.
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STRICTLY speaking, hyperchlorhydria cannot be considered a disease, but merely a symptom of many morbid conditions of the stomach, in which the most prominent feature is an increase in the hydrochloric acid and ferments of the gastric juice.

This is so very frequently the most marked symptom of the neurosis which it accompanies, that the name may be properly used to designate the pathological state. It is true that the name does not point to any anatomical lesion, but the fact that the hyperacidity may explain all the subjective disturbances of the patient, and may also form a basis for rational treatment, justifies us in looking upon it as a disease.

During the past fifty years many writers have recognized disorders of the stomach accompanied by hyperacid gastric juice. Pem-

* Read before the Ontario Medical Association.