

From time to time he suffered short spells of uneasiness in the "pit of the stomach," and occasionally was greatly annoyed by the belching of gas after meals, but he never vomited. He occasionally suffered spells of dizziness so that on several occasions he was obliged to sit down until the attack passed off. During the proceeding four months he had lost flesh rapidly, so much so indeed, that during that time his weight had been reduced from 212 to 166 pounds.

Physical examination revealed little, and it was evidently clear that a diagnosis must be made on the history of the case, rather than on present conditions. The heart, the lungs and the kidneys were normal. His physician reported no variation in the temperature during the preceding month, having averaged during that time between 98 and 99.F. There was no abdominal rigidity, no distention, and no tenderness except on deep palpation in the region of the gall-bladder. The tongue was furred, and the bowels somewhat constipated. The stools were of normal color and consistency. At the time of examination he complained much of a burning soreness in the stomach almost immediately after partaking of food, which in turn would be followed by the belching of gas at short intervals. His appetite was much less keen than heretofore, though even yet his meals were sometimes taken with a certain degree of relish. No melaena, no hematemesis, stools and urine normal, gastric contents normal.

*Discussion.*—The facts which we have before us in this case, and which we must endeavour to weave into a composite and definite diagnosis of an undoubted pathological condition, are numerous and somewhat contradictory. A pale haggard man looking much older than his years, a history of carcinoma? jaundice, gastric uneasiness, belching of gas, dizziness, loss of appetite, tenderness over the gall-bladder, and the most dominant symptom of all, the loss of forty six pounds of flesh in four months, points unmistakably to the upper abdomen as the seat of whatever pathological lesion may be present. As for the lesion itself one cannot help but consider pancreatic cancer, cancer of the liver, of the gall-bladder of bile ducts, ulceration in either the stomach or duodenum or even cancer of the stomach itself.

Probably the better method to pursue is to arrive at a diagnosis by the process of elimination. Presuming this condition were due to pancreatic cancer, what local symptoms would we expect to find at examination in a case so far advanced as we find in this man? We would first look for jaundice, which in the present instance is not marked, though should the growth be in the body or the tail, marked jaundice would not necessarily be present. Emaciation would be expected, and in this case it is marked.