

In ulcer of the pylorus with contraction we find it a very constant symptom. The vomiting in these cases may be of the cumulative type, the patient vomiting at night all that has been taken in the previous 24 hours.

In gastric ulcer the vomiting usually occurs an hour or two after meals, when the pain is at its height, and, as a rule, the vomiting relieves the pain.

In duodenal ulcer the vomiting occurs at irregular intervals, with no special reference to time of eating, but very often in early morning.

HEMATEMESIS AND MELENA.

The escape of blood from the stomach or from the bowel is of strong diagnostic significance; perhaps 60% of cases of gastric and duodenal ulcer have vomiting of blood to a greater or lesser extent; the hemorrhage may be copious, the blood bright in color, arterial in origin, and quickly ejected from the stomach, or, again, the blood may present the character of the well-known coffee grounds, according to the length of time of its stay in the stomach and the consequent change in the hemoglobin by the Hcl.

On the other hand, the bleeding may be "occult," and the evidence of it only being detected after careful microscopic and chemical examination.

It is in a large measure due to these careful investigations that we have been able to more certainly diagnose ulcerated conditions. (Benzidin test.)

The escape of blood from the bowel, detectable by the naked eye or occult, is met with intermittently in perhaps half the cases of gastric ulcer, where vomiting of blood is a symptom; but the greatest percentage of hemorrhages from the bowel is met with in duodenal ulcer.

I have emphasized the intermittent presence of blood in the stools as being significant of simple ulcer as opposed to the constant occult hemorrhages in carcinoma.

EXAMINATION OF GASTRIC CONTENTS.

The presence in excess of free Hcl. is of great diagnostic significance. The presence of butyric and lactic acid is not of much significance; it is only an indication of stasis of gastric contents and not diagnostic of carcinoma.

The appetite is often not decreased, the patient taking less food by reason of the punishment that follows.

Constipation is frequently complained of.