

Frequently these hemorrhages have not been observed, but still the loss of blood has been sufficient to cause a marked anemia, hence this condition must be considered in connection with the other symptoms and the history. In patients who are severely anemic and who are suffering from some form of gastric disturbance, one can usually demonstrate the loss of blood from chronic ulcer by a careful study of the case. Fuetter has demonstrated that by overcoming this anemia by careful dieting, many chronic ulcers will heal, which without especial attention to this feature seemed quite incurable under non-surgical treatment.

With careful internal and especially dietetic treatment, a vast majority of all cases of ulcer of the stomach which have been recognized early, can undoubtedly be healed permanently, if not only the immediate treatment, but also the after treatment, is carried out carefully and conscientiously. That this can be actually expected in these cases has been shown in a large number of patients suffering from this condition.

But there are many of these cases which apparently recover only to relapse again and again. Many of these go from one physician to another, each time temporarily improving or recovering.

Robson has found that most cases which ultimately come to operation have been apparently cured a number of times and our observations fully confirm his report.

It is well to bear in mind this element of the history of any given case, because it should have a distinct bearing upon the choice of treatment in the future. Any case in which there has been a number of apparent cures with subsequent recurrence of the ulcer should properly receive surgical instead of medical treatment in the future.

*Differential Diagnosis.*—The most common condition which is mistaken for gastric ulcer is disease of the gall-bladder, especially gall-stones or sand. Next in order comes chronic appendicitis with acute exacerbation, during which the pain is usually referred to the region of the umbilicus. In this case the pain is lower down than in gastric ulcer, and it is increased upon pressure in the region of the appendix near McBurney's point.

*Renal Calculus.*—Has been mistaken for gastric ulcer. In this case the urinalysis will usually clear up the diagnosis; moreover, the pain is increased upon pressure over the kidney, and radiates downward and inward along the course of the ureter.