## DIAGNOSIS OF CHRONIC GASTRIC AFFECTIONS, 261

1. Vomiting—The points to be noted are:—

The time of vomiting with reference to the ingestion of food—the relief obtained—was it preceded by pain; and the nature of the vomited matter.

The time at which vomiting occurs. In gastritis it occurs usually from  $\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{4}$  hours after eating; in ulcer soon, almost immediately, after eating; in cancer it may be absent throughout the disease; when present it does not bear any constant relationship to the time of eating.

The relief of pain. Vomiting in gastritis partially relieves the feeling of uneasiness which is generally an accompaniment of this condition; in ulcer, the pain is relieved; in cancer, pain is not a constant symptom and when present is not relieved by vomiting to the same extent as is that of ulcer.

Did pain precede the act of vomiting? In gastritis the act of vomiting is not usually preceded by actual pain, but rather by a feeling of uneasiness or discomfort; in ulcer the act of vomiting is usually preceded by a sharp localized pain; in cancer pain may be entirely absent and when present is not so definitely localized as in ulcer.

The nature of the vomited matter. As I shall later on speak more definitely of the stomach contents in these diseases, I shall content myself at present with referring to the gross characteristics of the vomited matter. In gastritis, the vomita will consist of partially digested food and mucus; in ulcer the food will be but little digested and frequently it will contain blood of a bright red colour; this blood may be in large amounts; in cancer, when vomiting occurs, the vomited matter will consist of partially digested food, and if blood is present it will be in smaller amounts than in the case of ulcer, and of a darker colour—being partially digested.

2. Pain.—This symptom is more or less common to all of the gastric disorders to which I have invited your attention.

In gastritis actual pain is not usual, but there is almost invariably a feeling of fullness about the stomach—a sense of discomfort—and the patient usually complains of tenderness upon pressure over the stomach. If flatulence accompanies this feeling of uneasiness, and it usually does, the sense of discomfort is relieved by the eructation of gas. There is in this condition no