

CARCINOMA OF THE OESOPHAGUS WITH FATAL HÆMOR-  
RHAGE FROM THE SUBCLAVIAN ARTERY.

BY

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James H.—A carter, aged 60, was admitted to the Montreal General Hospital on September 6, 1898, complaining of hoarseness and inability to swallow solid food.

He had used alcohol to excess for years, but was moderate in the use of tobacco. In April, of the present year, he began to suffer from a slight cough, and in June, he first noticed difficulty in swallowing solid food. He has been hoarse for six weeks.

*Present Condition.* He is a rather poorly nourished man, with a slight degree of anaemia. The muscles are soft and small, and the subcutaneous tissue scanty. There is complete aphonia, the patient being only able to speak in a whisper. Dr. Birkett reports that there is complete paralysis of the left vocal cord, and deficient adduction of the right. A No. 8 oesophageal sound was arrested 13 1-2 inches from the mouth, but a No. 7 passed into the stomach.

Apart from some arterial sclerosis and emphysema of the lungs there was no disease of any of the organs. The left radial pulse was noted as much smaller than the right.

On September 20th, the patient began to have evening elevations of temperature, began to complain of a dull pain behind the sternum, and the difficulty in swallowing continued.

Oct. 10. A No. 3 oesophageal sound was arrested eight inches from the teeth.

Nov. 4. Temperatures continue elevated, varying from 98 to 103. There was a severe rigor yesterday, the thermometer registering 105 2-5.

Nov. 15. Cough is more troublesome, but expectoration is scanty and not fetid. Repeated examination never revealed any tubercle bacilli. About this time the breath became offensive, and four days later this feature became so marked that he was transferred to an isolation ward. Septic temperatures, with occasional rigors, continued. Emaciation was marked, but not extreme.

Nov. 25. At 7 p.m. there was a slight attack of coughing, immediately followed by a profuse hæmorrhage. He asked for a towel, then suddenly fell back, gave a few gasps and died.

*Abstract of Autopsy*—The body is that of a somewhat emaciated old man.

At a point 3 1-2 cm. above the bifurcation of the trachea the oesophagus only admits a small probe, and on its mucous surface there