

an obstructive lesion. Medicine cannot cure an obstructive lesion. Surgical therapeutics alone can relieve an obstructive stenosis of the pylorus. To distinguish the ordinary indigestion from the acquired dyspepsia due to, and occasioned by, a congenital pyloric stenosis is, of course, often most difficult.

*Prognosis.* The prognosis is apparently hopeless, at least very grave, in cases treated medically. No case is on record which has received medical treatment and has recovered in which it has been proved that the disease existed. One case only, that of Batten, was treated medically, and, dying subsequently of some other lesion, was found to have a suggestion of stenosis. Many cases are treated medically, and come to operation, and the disease is found. These facts are most significant. Those who like Heubner of Berlin, and a few other, believe that all cases should be treated by medical means, have not seen the true pyloric tumor cases. Heubner's facts are unsatisfactory. He probably has seen cases of difficult feeding, but not the cases of true pyloric tumor.

The case reported recently by Morse\*, Murphy, and Wolbach, the specimen from which I will show you later, is unique in medical annals, and most significant. It is the only instance in which an autopsy has been secured so long a time following operation upon a case of pyloric infantile stenosis. It was briefly this: The diagnosis of pyloric tumor was made. At operation the tumor was found. A posterior gastroenterostomy was done, and the child recovered, gaining in flesh and strength, and developed for seven months as a normal child; the child then died of no disturbance which could be associated with the stomachic lesion. At autopsy the pyloric tumor was found unchanged, appearing as it was at operation seven months previously. The stoma between the stomach and the intestine was found intact. This is a most unique and remarkable picture. It means that, despite the proper short circuiting of the obstruction at the pylorus the pyloric tumor remained unchanged for seven months. It is suggested by this case that probably medical treatment with drugs is unable to effect any material change in the character of the pyloric tumor.

The *mortality* following operation is bound to be always rather high, for the operation is done upon a weak child, and the situation is that of an emergency. In the series of 60 operations studied by Scudder and Quinby in 1905, the mortality from all operations was found to be 46.6 per cent.; in the 135 operations up to 1908 the mortality is found to be 48.8 per cent.

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\* Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, 1908, clviii., 480.