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ABSTRACT OF A CLINICAL LECTURE ON A CASE OF CIRRHOSIS OF THE LIVER.*

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In the second bed on the left, as you enter No. 11 ward, you will have before this noticed a patient to whom, since his admission, unusual attention has been given, and in whose case we have all taken much interest. You have noticed at first sight the yellow face and jaundiced tinge of the conjunctiva, and perhaps have had occasion to ask the cause of the dark brown color of the urine sample at the head of his bed. He presents the three symptoms of jaundice in a marked degree. Moreover, on counting the pulse-beats, you will find that they are uncommonly slow, taking into consideration the weak condition of the patient. The skin, too, is itchy. Again, you cannot fail to perceive the fact that the abdomen is largely distended, and that both legs are dropsical to an extreme degree. Consider the causes of these three main features of the case—*jaundice, ascites, dropsy of the feet.*

Jaundice you must invariably regard as a symptom, never as a disease. To diagnose a case as jaundice is as inaccurate and insufficient as to mention cough as a cause of illness, or to describe a disease of the organs of locomotion as "lameness."

* Delivered in May, 1887, as one of the ordinary clinical lectures of the summer session.