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LATENT CANCER OF THE STOMACH.

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of Johns Hopkins Hospital.

IN a study of 150 consecutive cases of carcinoma of the stomach in the medical department of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, we have been very much interested in a group in which the disease was unsuspected during life. As Welch remarks, it is rare to find cancer of the stomach in an apparently healthy man dying of accident. The latent cases are most frequently met in old persons, in whom the symptoms may be very slight, or absent, or they are mistaken for the ordinary dyspeptic complaints of the aged. Even after the most thorough examination it may not be possible to reach a diagnosis. In obscure cases, particularly with dyspepsia and emaciation, the possibility of latent carcinoma should be borne in mind.

There are three groups of cases of latent carcinoma of the stomach:

1. A very small one in general hospitals, a very large one in almshouses and asylums, comprising cases in which the symptoms are those of a gradual enfeeblement without any indication of local disease—as Oliver Wendell Holmes puts it, in the "One Hoss Shay," "a general flavor of mild decay, but nothing local."
2. Cases in which, with an absence of gastric symptoms, the lesions of associated disease seem sufficient to account for the condition. In this group were 4 of our cases. In 2 the diagnosis of nephritis was made; 1 had advanced pulmonary tuberculosis with pneumothorax, and the fourth showed profound anemia with multiple venous thrombi. The following is a summary of these cases:

CASE I.—*Diagnosis of nephritis, arteriosclerosis and pleurisy; no gastric symptoms.*

No. 22. A. G., Hospital Nos. 2454 and 3251, male, aged 61 years, first admitted January 22, 1891, complaining of short-