

turn to normal health. The vomiting does not give such relief as follows in cases of ulcer.

In ulcer the pain runs in decided periods lasting from a few days to several months—it is burning and gnawing in character, and rarely attains the sharp lacinating type of gall stone colic. The pain, too, in ulcer, bears some relation to the taking of food. The most comfortable moments being those immediately following meals, or when the stomach is completely emptied.

It must be confessed that at times it is impossible to make an exact diagnosis.

A woman, fifty years of age, gave a history of stomach trouble extending over a number of years. One year before I saw her she had vomited a large amount of blood. She had distress after eating, with flatulence, but no vomiting. She could take nothing but liquid nourishment, and even this caused intense pain, except when lying down. There was tenderness midway between the umbilicus and costa arch. Patient was put to bed for three months on milk diet, as I

diagnosed the case gastric ulcer. No improvement followed this treatment so it was decided to do a gastro-enterostomy. The stomach and duodenum were found to be normal, but the gall bladder was tightly packed with stones.

In two cases presenting the combination of pain, nausea and vomiting, extending over a number of years, with tenderness in the gall bladder area, no stones were found. In both cases the gall bladder was found distended with thick bile and mucus. Drainage seems to have restored both to perfect health.

In looking over a list of operations, posted daily at the Mayo clinic, I was struck by the fact that nearly every day a case is put down for operation as gall stones, duodenal ulcer or appendicitis. After exhausting every means of arriving at an exact conclusion, they were content to acknowledge that, while it was impossible to definitely state the exact pathological condition, they had surely made a surgical diagnosis; in other words that an operation was demanded to relieve the patient and restore him to health.

