

to obstruction, the result of duodenal kinking. It may also be due to gastrectasis, with weakness of the gastric muscles, a common accompaniment of gastropptosis.

Hyperchloric acidity may be normal, increased or decreased. Hyperacidity is present in the majority of cases. It is the usual finding in women with relaxed abdominal muscles. The excessive hydrochloric acid may be due to the irritation of the stagnating food, and the nervous disturbances which are so frequently present in cases of gastropptosis, as well as to the causes of the disease called hyperchlorhydria.

The sensory function of the stomach is generally increased. This is shown by the frequency of hyperesthesia of the gastric mucosa, a cause of a good deal of the distress in some cases of gastropptosis.

As stated above, the subjective symptoms are very variable. The usual complaints are gastro-intestinal and nervous. The appetite is generally good, though the patient is afraid to eat lest it cause distress. Constipation is common, and pain and a sensation of fulness in the epigastrium after eating are frequently present, particularly in cases complicated by hyperchlorhydria. In some cases the pain appears one to three hours after ingestion of food, and is partly or wholly relieved by eating or by taking baking soda. This type of pain is usually caused by excessive hydrochloric acid in the gastric contents, and is usually associated with other symptoms of hyperchlorhydria, such as pyrosis, headache, drowsiness, sluggishness after eating, etc.

In cases of gastropptosis in which there is motor insufficiency belching is a common symptom. This is usually due to fermentation, the result of stagnation of food. In some cases, however, the eructations are principally of neurotic origin. Rumbling in the abdomen, particularly on the left side, is another common and very annoying symptom. It is generally observed in patients with a flabby abdomen, and is precipitated by deep breathing or by excitement. It only occurs during gastric digestion, and is generally intensified by the wearing of corsets. This last character has led some to suggest that the rumbling sounds are stenotic in origin.

The nervous symptoms of gastropptosis are very similar to those of neurasthenia. Patients frequently complain of sleeplessness, irritability, inability to do mental work, headache, backache, palpitation, coldness of the extremities and of many other symptoms which characterize neurasthenia. In persons predisposed to neuroses hysterical symptoms may supervene.