

the patient's health should be restored when the obstruction is overcome, either by operation on the tumor itself or by gastro-enterostomy. But if the mass be malignant, an operation can give but temporary relief, as by this time neighboring lymphatic structures have been invaded by the disease.

The history and signs present are strongly in favor of the non-malignant nature of this mass. The chronicity of the dyspeptic symptoms, without recent serious aggravation; the long time the tumor has been present, its slow development, and apparent arrest of growth for some months back, the good health and fair nutrition; the excess of free hydrochloric acid in the stomach and contents; the absence of lactic acid; the freedom from signs of ulceration and of material increase of obstruction during recent months—all favor the view that the tumor is benign. Pain, more or less distressing, is almost always a symptom in cancer; in this case it has been present only after a large quantity of material has accumulated in the stomach.

It must be borne in mind also that much larger masses than this may result from chronic ulceration of the mucous membrane of the stomach. In a man aged 50, whom I saw recently, there is a large mass, occupying apparently the whole of the lesser curvature, that must be non-malignant, as it has existed unchanged since it was discovered upward of a year ago, and the man's general health has not suffered materially. However, there are no signs of ulceration in the present case beyond those of chronic indigestion, yet ulceration may produce no more definite symptoms. It is not to be overlooked that cases of carcinoma running a very protracted course, even for years, have been reported; it is probable that these were cases of chronic ulceration with great thickening, on which carcinoma developed subsequently.

For the foregoing reasons I have given this man an encouraging prognosis, so far as the nature of the disease is concerned. Now, how are we to give him relief from his discomfort and improve his strength? In order to maintain a fair state of health it is necessary that a proper quantity of food be digested and that the stomach be quite emptied at least once a day, so as to prevent irritation thereof by decomposition of its contents. With a moderate degree of pyloric constriction this may fairly be attained by giving nutritious food of little bulk in small quantities several times daily, and, if necessary, passing a tube once a day and washing out the stomach. In this way many patients can maintain a good degree of health and vigor. Additional liquid may be supplied to the blood by giving water by the bowel. This man has been carrying out this plan fairly well for some months, but he has now arrived at that