

BRITISH AMERICAN
MEDICAL & PHYSICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. VI.—No. 3.]

JULY, 1850.

[NEW SERIES.

ART. XIV.—*Case of Scirrhus and Melanotic deposits in the Liver, By FRANCIS BADGLEY M.D., Fellow of the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society, of London.*

The subject of the following interesting case was a French Canadian gentleman, aged about 34, a tall, remarkably strong built man, ordinarily residing in the Eastern Townships and the cities of the United States, but at the time of his death an inmate of an Hotel in this city.

At 1 in the morning of the 8th March, 1847, being requested to visit Mr. De R., I found him in bed complaining of general uneasiness, restlessness, and insomnia, which he referred to oppression at the epigastrium. Throwing off at once the covering from his body, I perceived that the abdomen had been very lately, extensively blistered. His countenance displayed considerable anxiety, his manner was that of great nervous irritability; the pulse was quick, 94, only moderately full, soft, but regular; his breathing was slightly hurried, there was no palpitation or irregularity in the heart's action. The tongue was whitish, but not at all loaded. There was neither vomiting, nor appearance of jaundice, nor had there been shivering, but the peculiar sallow look of deep organic disease was manifest. His bowels were costive, his urine was very scanty and pale colored. He complained of great thirst, his skin was clammy—there was evidence of general enaciation. There were no fever and no tenderness of the body when pressed. A tumor occupying the abdominal cavity from the ensiform carti-

lage transversely, to a line similarly drawn midway between the umbilicus and the pubic bone was clearly indicated by its defined borders. Learning by my enquiry relative to the blister, that he was under the professional care of my friend Dr. Nelson, I simply prescribed something in the room as a placebo, and promised to visit him again in the morning with Dr. N. if he wished it.

The following particulars comprise the history of the case as furnished by Mr. DeR. at the consultation at 9 A.M. For many months previously he had suffered from uneasiness at the pit of the stomach, accompanied by considerable distention and irregularity of the bowels, requiring him to wear his clothes loosely round his waist; had been subject to constipated bowels; had never had jaundice, although often thought that he was about to be so affected; had never suffered from inflammation of any of the abdominal viscera. Had never received any injury over the regions of the liver, spleen or kidneys. Had enjoyed almost invariably, in his own opinion, excellent health; was sensible of his own muscular strength and often tested it. Was a most hearty, but at the same time a most incautious eater, and was as irregular as to exercise, sometimes subjecting himself to great fatigue and exposure, at other times remaining for days together in a state of comparative torpidity. He had latterly become temperate in the use of alcoholic liquors. In the winter prior to his death, he had consulted Dr. Nelson, for an opacity of the cornea of one