

AN ANALYSIS OF CASES OF GASTRIC ULCER OCCURRING IN THE ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL DURING THE PAST EIGHT YEARS.

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Of the 20,596 cases admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital during the last eight years there were 85 cases of gastric ulcer making a percentage of .004. Of these 85 cases, there were 3 males and 82 females; more than one half Canadians and more than one-quarter having been born in Great Britain; the other small proportion came from various places, chiefly from the United States, Ceylon, West Indies and Sweden.

The ages varied from 17 to 70, the average being $27\frac{1}{2}$; there were 8 cases under 20 years of age, and 10 over 40; the most frequent time of all was the third decade, 49 out of the 75 cases in which the age was recorded being between 20 and 30 years old. It is interesting to note in this connection that all the perforations took place during this period, and the hæmorrhages were likewise more common. Only two patients were over 50 years of age.

Etiology: As regards the occupation, 34 cases were servants, 14 were housekeepers, and only two gave occupations definitely as cooks; the other cases were variously seamstresses, nurses, clerks, etc. In only three cases was trauma directly associated with the gastric ulcer—in the one case it having followed almost directly upon a kick in the side from a horse, and in another upon a fall. Anæmia was an associated condition in 42 cases.

Complaints: As regards the complaints: In 54 of the cases the symptoms were referable entirely to the stomach; in 19 there were other symptoms in addition, while in 5 the stomach itself was not taken into account. Of those cases in which there were complaints referable to other parts than the stomach, the chief indications were either those following upon or coincident with anæmia, such as headache, weakness, pain in the back, dyspnoea and palpitation, or again there were, precordial pain, complaints of sore throat, cough, sweats, sometimes chills and not infrequently signs in the pelvis.

As regards the more special complaints made by the patients pain was declared to be local in 44 cases; vomiting was complained of in 35; hæmatemesis in 20; weakness, headache or backache, respectively, in