

supposition that some irritating ptomaine is the cause. Why not in this case explain the lesser degree of atrophy by supposing the morbid products to have been conveyed to the liver in such amounts that it was able to overcome it partially, death occurring from toxæmia before all the lobules had been completely destroyed.

DR. F. W. CAMPBELL understood the difficulty in diagnosis, but it would have been well to have dropped the term "acute," the course of three months is against it being acute yellow atrophy. He had met with cases, at post mortems, with distinct cirrhosis of the liver where there had never been a drop of alcoholic liquor taken. Some of the generally recognized symptoms of acute yellow atrophy were absent, there was no delirium and the headache not acute, though the history of diminution of liver dulness followed the usual course. He was sorry that Dr. McConnell had not gone more fully into the examination of the urine, nothing had been said of urea, uric acid or earthy phosphates which are much diminished or may be almost entirely absent. The position of the liver found at the autopsy had not been described, whether the disappearance of dulness is due to the liver falling back behind the intestines. He thought that he would prefer to consider the case one of cirrhosis.

DR. DECOW said that the most prominent symptoms of acute yellow atrophy were not present, namely, the tendency to hæmorrhage, profound cerebral disturbance, changes in the urine and rapidly fatal termination. Exclusion of alcohol has nothing to do with it. Some authorities held that it may be due to mental disturbance. He had seen a case under the care of Dr. Bristowe in London, a child a few years old, where the hæmorrhages were the earliest symptoms.

DR. LAFLEUR asked Dr. McConnell if he thought he saw the patient at the beginning of her illness. He may not have seen her during the time of the original enlargement, but only after atrophy had commenced. He had frequently found cirrhosis at autopsies, though never suspected, death being due to some intercurrent disease.

DR. FINLEY said that there were many cases of cirrhosis when alcohol had never been used. The ascites and long duration are points in favour of its being cirrhosis.