

ONE.

Case No. 1,206.

Date, Sept. 10, 1914.

Mr. J. D. _____

Address, L _____

Age, 64. Civil State, married.

Nativity, Canadian.

CLINICAL HISTORY.

On September 10th I saw in consultation Mr. J. D. _____, of L_____. Though only 64 years of age, he presented the appearance of a man at least ten years older. His expression was drawn and haggard, his complexion sallow, dark rings around his eyes, a distinct tinge of jaundice throughout the sclera, and his entire demeanor that of one who has lost all interest in life.

His previous history had been good. At six years of age he had measles, and at fourteen scarlet fever, from which time till the summer of 1909 his health had remained perfectly good. In November of that year he had noticed a lump in his neck, which kept gradually enlarging in size, and finally in March of the following year he had it removed, and was told it was carcinoma, though as far as I could learn, no microscopic examination was made of the growth. The wound healed perfectly and gave him no further trouble. This illness, however, appeared to be the starting-point of all his future troubles, for following it he had never been entirely well.

From time to time he suffered short spells of uneasiness in the "pit of the stomach," and occasionally was greatly annoyed by the belching of gas after meals, but he never vomited. He occasionally suffered spells of dizziness so that on several occasions he was obliged to sit down until the attack passed off. During the preceding four months he had lost flesh rapidly, so much so indeed, that during that time his weight had been reduced from 212 to 166 pounds.

Physical examination revealed little, and it was evidently clear that a diagnosis must be made on the history of the case, rather than on present conditions. The heart, the lungs and the kidneys were normal. His physician reported no variation in the temperature during the preceding month, having averaged during that time between 98 and 99 deg. F. There was no abdominal rigidity, no distention, and no tenderness except on deep palpation in the region of the gall-bladder. The tongue was furred, and the bowels somewhat constipated. The stools were of normal color and consistency. At the time of examination he complained much of a burning soreness in the stomach almost immediately after partaking of food, which in turn would be followed by the belching of gas at short intervals. His appetite was much less keen than heretofore, though even yet his meals were sometimes taken with a certain degree of relish. No melaena, no hematemesis, stools and urine normal, gastric contents normal.