

but its membranes have always manifested more or less diseased conditions. Of these the partial thickening of the arachnoid, giving it a milky-white appearance, has been especially observed. Commonly, too, colourless fluid, though in general not in very large quantities, was effused between its layers, and was also found in the spinal canal. In several cases, some serum was found in the cavities of the brain, and the spinal marrow had become softened by imbibition of such fluid. In several cases the membranes of the brain had grown together, but in others the dura mater was only adherent to the cranium. These changes have all been observed in cases in which, during life, no signs of inflammatory action or of effusion were present,—unless we are to consider as such the decrease of mental activity, and the blunting of all sensibility, both general and special.

2. The lungs exhibited various diseased appearances. Of these œdema was a frequent one, a colourless or reddish frothy fluid flowing out on incision, and escaping in large quantities when pressure was applied, the compressed parts retaining the impression of the fingers. In several cases, lobular emphysema was observed. Adhesions of variable extent to the ribs and diaphragm occurred: and in certain places the investing membrane of the lungs was thickened.

3. The mucous membrane of the stomach exhibited isolated, bright red, punctated spots, and this especially near the pylorus. Similar groups were observed in the duodenum, jejunum, and ileum. The mucous membrane of the small intestine was much thinned; the muscular, likewise, in a less degree; but the serous remained unchanged. The mucous glands of the small intestines were enlarged.

4. General emaciation, and a whitened appearance of the muscles was observed, as well as laxity and thinness of the walls of the heart. On the other hand, a considerable quantity of fat was found deposited under the skin and between the muscles. The mesentery, heart, and kidneys were covered with fat: and the liver so penetrated with it, that, in many cases, its texture seemed as if converted into adipose substance.

5. The blood in the vessels was dark and diffuent. The spleen, as a rule, was softened, and, in several cases, pappy.

(2.) *Acute Alcoholic Poisoning.*—In strict language every intoxication and stupefaction by spirits should be called poisoning; but as intoxication is of daily occurrence without danger to life, it is only so considered here, when urgent symptoms, requiring medical aid, are present. Cases are, however, not wanting, in which paralysis, soon ending in death, has followed this undue stimulation by alcohol; and the author supplies the particulars of such as have come under his notice. In these, besides the appearances due to chronic poisoning, others due to repletion of the brain and its membranes with blood, and a congested state of the lungs (in one case acute œdema pulmonum being present). The immediate cause of death in those who die soon after taking a large quantity of spirit, is arrest of blood in the central organ of circulation and the respiratory organs,—a state of asphyxia. Such effect upon the circulation and respiration is, however, but a consequence of the repletion and paralysis of the brain by blood containing alcohol. In acute alcohol-poisoning, not only is the ingested spirit found in the digestive canal, but the various visceral structures and fluids of the body strongly smell of it, and are, therefore, penetrated by it.

In violent deaths it may often become a matter of importance and difficulty to state what part alcoholic fluids have exerted in producing the fatal termination. Two cases are given by the author, in one of which an effusion of blood was