

PAIN.

Character of Pain.—Pain in some form is the most constant symptom met with, occurring in probably 90% of all cases; this in early cases may be described simply as a feeling of weight or fullness, which becomes as the trouble goes on a gnawing and burning pain or a cutting or tearing.

Time of Onset.—A study of the *time of onset* of the pain in relation to the ingestion of food is of diagnostic value, and perhaps also of some value in locating the site of the ulceration. In the majority of cases of gastric ulcer the pain comes on very soon (5-10 minutes) after entrance of the food into the stomach, and remains during the period of gastric digestion, and then gradually subsides. If the ulcer affects the pyloric ring alone, the pain does not usually commence until 1—2 hours after taking food, and in duodenal ulceration from 2—4 hours after. On the other hand, in ulceration of the duodenum, the pain (hunger pain) is often immediately relieved by eating; the explanation of this usually given being that the taking of food causes the closing of the pylorus, and this shuts off the acid from irritating the ulcer. Thomson does not accept this view, but suggests that the empty stomach moving towards the centre line puts traction on the duodenum and this irritates the ulcer.

Sometimes in gastric ulcer, where there is hyperacidity, we will find the patient relieved of pain soon after taking food, especially if it be albuminous.

Effect of different kinds of food on the pain.—Large quantities of food, or the heavier, coarser foods cause much more pain in gastric ulcer than do bland foods; whereas the character of the food does not seem to make much difference to the sufferer from duodenal ulcer.

Seat of the pain.—In gastric ulcer, the pain is usually referred to the centre of the epigastrium, and also through to the back between the shoulders.

Tenderness on pressure.—On pressure, two spots of tenderness can usually be made out, the epigastric and dorsal. The dorsal is situated to the left of the 8—10 dorsal spine, and usually appears later than the epigastric pain.

In duodenal ulcer the pain is usually seated to the right of the zygoid.

VOMITING.

Vomiting is present at one or other times in a large proportion of cases; probably in 80%. It is, as one would expect, a more constant symptom of gastric than of duodenal ulceration.