

Baillie gave an excellent account of gastric ulcers with many well arranged clinical observations, and some good illustrations, drawn from his own postmortem investigations. About the same time the Italian physiologist, Spallanzani, advanced the view that ulceration of the stomach was due to a process of self digestion. This view was also urged by the celebrated John Hunter, who held that they were due to erosion of the stomach walls by the gastric juice.

But this view fell into disfavor, and many crude theories were offered to account for the ulcerative process. In the early years of the nineteenth century Carswell and Morin again took up the question and urged that the disease was the result of chronic inflammation of the stomach, derangement of the circulation in its walls, and the action of its own secretations. One of the most interesting events in the history of the subject is the report of a case in 1818, when Chaussier proved that a death was due to perforation after chronic ulceration, and not to poison as alleged. In the second and third decades of the eighteenth century, four names stand out very prominently as having added much to our knowledge of gastric ulceration, namely, Lainé, Rauseh, Cruveilhier, and Abercrombie. In the writings of these observers it is apparent that simple ulcer was sometimes confused with malignant disease, but we also learn from their writings that care should be taken to clearly differentiate death by perforation from death by poison. This was a distinct advance in our medico-legal knowledge. In 1829-35 appeared the volumes of Cruveilhiers' pathology. They contain an amount of material of an anatomical, pathological and clinical character which place him in the very front ranks among the great medical names of the world. He points out acute and chronic ulcer, cicatrization, contraction, perforation, hæmorrhage, malformation of the pylorus, and many other facts now well known and admitted.

This brings the historical study of the subject down to the time of the later pathologists, such as Rokitansky, Virchow and Trousseau. The first of these gave a description of the anatomical appearances that must ever remain as models of their kind. In 1885, Virchow announced his famous views on the necrotic origin of ulcers caused by hæmorrhages into the mucous membranes. This view was taken up by many others and much experimental work was performed to prove that ligation of the portal vein and the various gastric arteries caused ulceration of the stomach walls; and here the names of Müller, Pavy and Ebstein are worthy of special mention. Before passing from this brief review of the historical study of gastric ulcer, it is only fair to state that the term *ulcus ventriculi* was first employed by Peter Frank about 1800. Surgical intervention for gastric ulcer dates from Rydygier's operation in 1881.