

cred below the level of the patient's abdomen and the contents of the stomach are siphoned out. Fresh water is again poured in and run off, till as much as five or six pints have been passed through the stomach, or till the last washings come away quite clear. Where there is much tenacious mucus, instead of using plain water, a 2 % solution of sodium bicarb. may be used.

When is the best time to wash out the stomach? In cases of dilatation the best time is six or seven hours after the principal meal. Ewald says: "In cases of very marked fermentation we can clean the walls of the stomach more quickly and thoroughly by washing out the stomach in the morning before breakfast, when the viscus is empty." How frequently should lavage be employed? In most cases, at least, once daily, and this should be continued for a considerable time—several weeks. This can be easily done, as after the tube has been introduced a few times by the physician, the patient can pass it himself.

In what cases is the tube indicated? In all cases where the food is retained so long in the stomach that abnormal fermentation occurs. This happens in the following diseases:

(a) *Chronic Gastric Catarrh*.—In these cases there is generally a diminution of the secretion of H Cl. which produces a delay in digestion, and a consequent prolonged retention of food in the stomach, with abnormal decomposition and distension of the stomach with gas. I might cite many cases to illustrate the good effects of lavage in this disease, but the following cases will suffice:

W. J. C., who for some months had been much worried in business, came to me in November last, complaining of loss of appetite, oppression in the epigastrium, belching of gas, frequent vomiting, headache, irregular bowels and great depression of spirits. He had been losing flesh rapidly—so rapidly that the presence of some grave organic disease was feared. I advised him to keep quiet, put him on a restricted diet, and prescribed various remedies, in spite of which his condition rapidly grew worse. At last I proposed that I should try the effect of washing out his stomach; to this he consented with considerable hesitation. Marked relief followed the first few washings. I continued the treatment for three weeks, at the end of which time he was able to resume ordinary diet, and return to business.

Mrs. H., a widow, aged 55 years, suffered from various dyspeptic symptoms for years. In October, 1894, she became decidedly worse, and when seen presented the following symptoms:—Nausea, anorexia, vomiting, obstinate constipation and sleeplessness. This patient was dieted, and medicines of various kinds given her for several weeks, till, at last, she could not take even a spoonful of milk and lime-water without vomiting it immediately, in fact, she retched almost constantly, even when she did not attempt to swallow nourishment, and at intervals brought up bile and mucus. Her condition was such that I was obliged to nourish her for several days with egg and milk, *per rectum*. She was very much dejected, tossed about in bed crying out, "I'm so sick, I'll never get better." With great difficulty I persuaded her to allow me to wash out her stomach. The first washing gave such marked relief, that she readily consented to have the treatment continued. Within a few weeks from the time I began the lavage, she was able to eat a good meal of solid food, and relished it as she had not for years before. For six months this patient has continued to wash out her own stomach, at least two or three times every week.

(b) *Dilatation of the Stomach*.—This may be due either to obstruction at the pylorus, or to atony of the muscular coat. If to the former, lavage will prove very beneficial by giving relief to the disagreeable symptoms which accompany this condition, as in the following case:—

J. D., a man passed middle life, was admitted to the London General Hospital in the fall of 1893. For some months he suffered great pain in the epigastrium, vomited frequently; had no desire to take food; suffered greatly with acid eructations, and lost weight rapidly. A tumor of considerable size could be easily palpated on a level with, and to the right of, the umbilicus. On dilating the stomach with air, its lower border could be seen midway between the umbilicus and pubes. Frequent examination of the stomach contents showed the absence of free H Cl. There could be no doubt that this patient was suffering from cancer at the pylorus. To relieve his disagreeable symptoms, his stomach was ordered to be washed out daily. Soon the pain became less, his appetite improved, and he gained a few pounds in weight. Dr. Meek afterwards did a gastro-