

abscess, while over the tympanitic resonance the breath sounds are replaced by amphoric breathing, and over the area of the dulness they are absent. The bell-sound may be obtained."

He might have added that a peritoneal friction rub may be heard below the tip of the 10th costal cartilage.

2. *Diseases of the Stomach.*

(a) *Hyperacidity*.—The repeated occurrence of pain in the region of the stomach or the recurrence of attacks of pain at regular intervals a short time after eating, particularly, if the pain is relieved by eating a little nitrogenous food or taking an alkali, may lead us to suspect hyperchlorhydria. If a test meal be given and the stomach contents be removed two or three hours after and found to consist of a small quantity of fine, well-digested, thin masses of food, containing a great deal of free HCl, the suspicion will be confirmed. We must now decide whether we are dealing with a purely nervous form of the disease, or whether there is an ulcer of the stomach. This will be referred to later.

(b) *Hypersecretion*, or excessive flow of gastric juice, occurs in two forms, viz., intermittent and chronic.

(1) The intermittent form is characterized by the appearance of more or less severe pain in the region of the stomach, usually spasmodic in character. Vomiting occurs, at first consisting of particles of food, later of yellowish green, acid fluid. The attack may last for hours or even days. As soon as the attack ceases the patient feels quite well. After a few weeks or months another attack may occur. Examination of the vomit shows that it contains HCl and pepsin.

(2) Chronic hypersecretion is characterized by pain occurring either during the period of digestion or when the stomach is empty. There is no pain immediately after eating, in fact, pain if present before eating disappears when something is eaten. When the pain first comes on it is slight, but gradually increases in intensity, and finally may become very severe. The pain generally comes on during the night.

The stomach contents should be examined after a period of fasting. To this end the stomach should be thoroughly washed out the evening before, and the patient should not be permitted to take anything during the night. The following morning the stomach contents should be aspirated, and if 100 c.c. or more of fluid is removed without any admixture of food particles, continuous secretion of gastric juice is indicated.

(c) *Gastric Ulcer*.—Pain is the most prominent symptom of this disease, and may be the only one. If the pain is confined