

and of granules and shreds of membrane. The membranes were of the shape and size of the tubes of the stomach, and were covered with granules and fat. The cells varied from 1-1200th to 1-2200th of an inch, and were usually fringed with fine pieces of membrane. In cases of longer duration the membranes were covered with cells, and were also of the size and shape of the stomach tubes. In order to ascertain if these appearances were trustworthy as evidences of inflammation, the contents of the stomachs of forty-five subjects were examined at the Middlesex Hospital, the condition of the mucous membrane being at the same time noted. In only one were there any fibrinous casts, and it was in acute gastritis. In eighteen there were only separate cells, chiefly of the columnar form, and in none of these was there any inflammatory action. In eight cases casts of the upper parts of the tubes were plentiful, composed only of healthy conical cells, and in all the mucous membrane was in a natural condition. In eighteen there were either plugs formed of cells and granules from the secreting parts of the tubes, or the casts of conical cells were overlaid with granular matters, and in all of these the stomach was more or less inflamed. Two cases of gastritis, unconnected with scarlatina, were also quoted as examples of the forms in which casts of the stomach tubes appeared in vomited matters during life, and the author stated that he had detected casts of the stomach tubes in matters vomited by persons affected with gastritis connected with diseased kidneys, with inflammatory dyspepsia, and other forms of inflammation of the gastric mucous membrane. It was urged that if casts of the gastric tubes can be discovered during life in cases of gastritis, and if in scarlatina this condition exists, and casts have been found in the stomach after death, there is every probability that desquamation of the epithelium takes place in this organ, as it does in the skin and kidneys.

In support of the third proposition, the results of the following experiments were given in three cases of scarlatina:—Ten grains of hard boiled white of egg were digested at a temperature of 90° for twelve hours in an infusion of the mucous membrane, to which three per cent. of hydrochloric acid had been previously added. The average loss of albumen was three grains and two thirds. Similar experiments performed with the stomachs of eleven males who died of various diseases at the same hospital gave an average loss of four grains; so that there had been scarcely any diminution of pepsine produced by the fever. As a contrast to this were the results of similar experiments upon four cases who died of typhus fever. In two of these the albumen had gained three grains of weight by imbibition, and was not at all softened; whilst in the other two it was softened, and one had lost only half a grain, the