

MYXŒDEMA—AN ANOMALOUS CASE.*

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Mrs. P. M., aged 66 years, is the mother of a family and a native of England. Fifteen years ago she was attacked with diarrhoea, which proved to be chronic. She had an average of ten stools in the twenty-four hours. These occurred generally from 5 to 10 A.M., and were usually clay-colored. Tried quite a number of doctors and numerous remedies, without any benefit, until about fifteen months ago, when it was got under control. About that time a new symptom began to show itself, which has gone on increasing until the present time. She began to feel hungry every two hours, and unless she got food she felt very weak and tremulous. About six months ago the stools became more solid, but there were still six in the twenty-four hours, and these were of a light clay color. About this time also she noticed the following symptoms, which have gradually become more marked as time passed: (1) She was swollen all over the body, but especially about the face. (2) The mouth was dry, the speech husky, and the taste sometimes sweet, at other times bitter. (3) She felt an inability to pronounce the words properly—they ran into one another. (4) When there was no food in the stomach there was a gurgling noise, heard or felt by the patient herself. (5) She had hungry spells every two hours, when profuse perspiration would suddenly break out; when she took nourishment the sweating would as suddenly disappear. (6) She felt weak and tired, and there was an awkwardness in all her movements. (7) If she did not get food when the hungry feeling and sense of weakness came on, she would tremble, and would be unable to sit up in bed. (8) She sleeps soundly, but awakens every two hours; if she sleeps longer than that time, she awakens hungry and weak, and with the trembling mentioned, all of which disappear shortly after taking a glass of milk, beef tea, raw eggs, or any nourishment either in the liquid or solid form. She observed that liquid food in combination with a stimulant, as milk and brandy, answered particularly well.

* Read by title at the recent meeting of the Canadian Medical Association.