

THE CANADA LANCET

Vol. XXXVI.

FEBRUARY, 1903.

No. 6.

A CASE OF ACUTE PRIMARY THYROIDITIS.

By E. R. SECORD, M.D., Brantford.

THE following case, which occurred during my term of service at the John H. Stratford Hospital in this city, seemed to present enough peculiar and interesting features, to warrant its being placed on record.

Mrs. E., *et. al.*, 41, Anglo-Saxon, admitted July 19th, 1902, complaining of weakness; cephalalgia, chiefly frontal, but also down the nape of the neck; anorexia; constipation; and pain in a goitre with increase in its size.

Personal history. The patient is a married woman of thirty-one years. She is the mother of three children. Her general health has always been good, having had no illnesses other than those peculiar to childhood. She has always been able to do her own house work.

For about twelve years back she has had a "swelling of the neck," roughly speaking of about the size of a large lemon, situated nearly in the middle line anteriorly, which had never given rise to any trouble other than the discomfort occasioned by a tumour in that situation. She had, however, noticed that when working hard, or when walking fast there was some dyspnoea, and also some palpitation of the heart.

In the spring of the present year, the patient had moved into a house where typhoid fever had been particularly prevalent during the fall previous, and where well water was the only source of supply for drinking purposes.

For the past few weeks she has been suffering more or less continually from headache, especially in the occipital region, her appetite has been gradually failing, constipation becoming marked, and chilly sensations have appeared, without however any distinct rigor. There has never been any epistaxis.

Present Illness. On the 17th inst. the headache became worse, and the goitre which had previously given no trouble became somewhat tender and swollen. She was seen by her medical attendant, and on the 19th inst. was sent into the hospital with a diagnosis of probable enteric fever.

Present Condition. General: Face pale, with red patches the size of a silver dollar over each malar eminence, eyes somewhat prominent,