ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

CHRONIC INTESTINAL STASIS.

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IN discussing the subject of Chronic Intestinal Statis only the most important phases can be touched upon in a short paper for purposes of discussion, therefore, we shall accept Dr. Lane's premises.

The definition of C.I.S. is somewhat confusing with Chronic constipation. The definition of constipation which has formerly been accepted as adequate does not describe what we know now as C.I.S.

Constipation is usually considered to involve the large bowel particularly in its lower portion, results as a rule from improper diet, insufficient fluid intake, lack of exercise, general atonic condition of the body tissues or a combination of two or more of these faculties. The condition may and often supervene even in marked degree when the lumen of the bowel is entirely free from angulation, kinks, and other obstruction abnormalities. Furthermore constipation may exist to a very pronounced degree even in the intraceable form known as obstipation, and yet the patient may suffer very little from the effects of absorption of the retaining material and its toxins.

In C.I.S. on the other hand while the factors which produce constipation may be operative others involved are definitely demonstrable by diagnostic means at our command. In the first place according to Lane's theory the evolution of man from the all-fours posture of his progenitors of field and forest result in a general tendency to viceroptosis. The dropping of the abdominal organs gives rise to stress and strain upon the messentery and its attachments. Nature attempts to offset this strain by the formation of practically bloodless evolutionary bands. These evolutionary bands develop with unequal strength in different parts and the result is unequal support. The bowel is held up firmly at some points while it is allowed to sag at others. Anguation or kinking at the point of support folows this abdominal fixation at a given point in the length of the intestine while a dropping of the tube on either side narrows the lumen of the gut to a greater or lesser degree according to circumstances and to that degree interferes with the passage of its contents. The immediate result of this alteration in the drainage scheme is such a slowing in the passage of the food along the alimentary canal that an excess of toxic matter is formed especially in the small intestine; in other words the condition of stasis supervenes. Inasmuch as the factors which lead to this are not transitory but permanent unless corrected, the condition becomes chronic and hence we have C.I.S.