

hitherto. It may be noted, in the first place, that in very few cases has there been any splenic enlargement by competent observers have apparently recovered without operative interference. Coetz records the case of a girl who had been delicate from birth. At the age of five years an enormous enlargement of the spleen was discovered. The number of red and white corpuscles was normal. Haemoglobin was reduced to 70 per cent. There were repeated attacks of haematemesis, and she had to be relieved by tapping on several occasions. The child grew fat and free of troubles, bronchopneumonia, and eruptive eruptions. At the age of fourteen an attack of haematemesis occurred but the spleen had by this time diminished in size. No further symptoms occurred, and three years later the spleen could not be felt and the child appeared to be in perfect health. One of us has recently seen in almost exactly similar case.

Wunder reports the case of a man of fifty, whose spleen had been enlarged for at least four years. He had suffered from haematemesis and melena, and the red cell count fell to 1,800,000 per c.mm. Under treatment the number of corpuscles rose to 4,800,000, and the patient continued to work although the spleen remained large. Most of such cases have been treated with arsenic, or arsenic with iodides.

There is also a youth of eighteen, suffering from splenic anaemia or an early stage of the same, under the care of one of us. Gastrointestinal symptoms were very pronounced, and treatment directed towards the alimentary canal led to what has apparently been a complete recovery.

Such favourable results as the foregoing are by no means common. Roentgen sometimes follows the application of X-rays to the spleen, but it must be admitted that in the majority of the recorded cases their use has not influenced the course of the disease. We can recall the case of a girl of seventeen who had a remission of symptoms for five years after a course of X-ray treatment. Symptoms then returned and ascites was formed. The further application of the rays failed to do good. Another case is that of a lady, aged fifty, with an enlarged spleen. She has had many exacerbations, but since the application of X-rays she has had a remission of eight months' duration.

When a case is doing badly, or when the disease appears to condemn a patient to a life of more or less complete invalidism, the problem of procedure divides itself into the question whether removal of the spleen can be safely accomplished. The outstanding fact in this connection is that a large number of thoroughly successful cures have been reported. Immediate benefit has frequently followed in cases previously doing badly. A few unsuccessful cases have also been reported, but the presumption is that a good many more have been left unrecorded. Cases have died of haemorrhage or shock immediately after the operation; others have been carried off by pneumonia; and yet others have died of various gastro-intestinal symptoms after a short interval. Armstrong collected 332 cases of splenectomy for splenic anaemia. Complete recovery followed in 22 instances; a fatal result from haemorrhage or shock occurred in 9 cases; 1 patient