

Apart from the abdominal conditions, there was some fatty infiltration of the heart, marked atheromatous degeneration of the large arteries, with some calcareous deposit, bilateral chronic pleuritic adhesions, cicatricial contraction of the lower lobe of the right lung, excess of cerebrospinal fluid, considerable subarachnoidal exudate and marked atheroma of the arteries at the base of the brain.

REMARKS.

Incomplete as the clinical report is, it yet indicates some of the most prominent symptoms that should lead one to suspect an acute involvement of the pancreas. The onset of this condition is usually sudden, but may be preceded by epigastric uneasiness for a day or two. It occurs more frequently in adult males, and particularly in fleshy people. It usually begins with abdominal pain, which is intense, more or less diffuse and persistent, with paroxysmal exacerbations. It is increased by movement, and is associated with well-marked tenderness above the umbilicus, distention of the superior abdominal region and by vomiting. Nausea and vomiting are early symptoms and increase in severity. No relief follows the act of vomiting. The vomited matter consists of food and mucus, later of bile and blood in various stages of degeneration.

A condition of collapse soon follows. The abdomen usually becomes distended and tender. The bowels, as a rule, are constipated, rarely there is diarrhea. Slight jaundice is usually present and increases the longer the patient lives. The mass may be palpable but usually the distention and tenderness are so great as to render palpation very difficult, if not impossible except under anesthesia. Severe attacks are usually fatal in 24 hours. When less acute, a gangrenous condition is often produced and proves fatal in from two to five days from absorption of the toxic material. When the condition is still less acute it may lead to abscess formation, or become subacute, or chronic; and in mild forms it may lead to resolution and recovery.

The hemorrhage may precede or take place during the inflammatory process. If it precedes the inflammation, the bleeding is usually within and without the glandular substance, and usually runs an extremely acute course. If it occurs during the inflammatory process, the bleeding is less profuse and runs a less acute course.