

often dread to take food on account of the pain and vomiting which they know will follow. In the older cases, there are frequent eructations of gas from the stomach. These may be so frequent and noisy as to be a serious annoyance. If the stomach be dilated, as is sometimes the case, this can be distinguished by percussion and palpation.

If the disease is of long standing and severe, the patients lose flesh and strength, and present a very deplorable appearance.

The lesions consist in a chronic inflammation of the mucous coat of the stomach, with a loss of power in the muscular coat. The inner surface of the organ is constantly coated with an increased quantity of tenacious mucus. The connective tissue between the gastric tubules is increased in amount, and the tubules themselves become atrophied. The stomach is sometimes found very small—in other cases much dilated.

The milder cases of the disease can often be cured by regulating the diet and life of the patient, without much resort to medical treatment. The severer cases are only temporarily benefited by such means.

The patient whom you see to-day is an example of the more severe form of stomach dyspepsia. She is an Irish servant girl, 40 years old. About two years ago she began to have pain and vomiting after her meals. After nine weeks these symptoms ceased, and she enjoyed tolerable health until eight months ago. At that time, she again began to vomit about fifteen minutes after eating. At the same time, there was a dull boring pain in the epigastric region and extending into the back. She has never vomited blood. The pain and vomiting continued; she became much emaciated, and was so feeble as to remain in bed much of the time. Her appetite continued to be good; her bowels were somewhat constipated. I saw her for the first time five months after the commencement of her illness. She was then very feeble and emaciated. She had been put under a variety of medical treatment and had been kept on milk diet for some time, but without relief. The pain and vomiting would cease for a few hours or a few days, and then return.

In the epigastric region was a globular tumor, tympanitic on percussion, which I supposed to

be the dilated stomach. At that time, three months ago, I stopped all drugs and washed out her stomach with the stomach-pump every day. This treatment was continued, with occasional intermissions, for two months. The pain and vomiting became less frequent, and then ceased entirely. She has steadily recovered her strength and flesh, and is now able to work. For the past month the pumping has been discontinued, and her health has continued good.

As a companion to this case, let me read you the history of a gentleman who has been under my care for a considerable length of time. He was a man 45 years old, by occupation a broker. About sixteen years ago he began to have attacks of pain and discomfort in the epigastric region, lasting several days, and ending in an attack of vomiting. These attacks occurred about once in four weeks. At that time his habits were irregular. His food was often eaten hastily, he worked hard during the day, used stimulants pretty freely, and frequently ate late dinners and suppers. In this condition he continued until about six years ago. At that time the attacks of pain and vomiting gradually became more frequent, were more readily excited by indiscretions in diet, and left the patient feeble and prostrated for several days. Any preparations of alcohol were almost certain to bring on one of these attacks. From time to time he consulted different physicians, and followed out several plans of treatment. On several occasions he became so much better as to think himself cured, but, sooner or later, the old symptoms always returned. The attacks of pain and vomiting gradually became more and more frequent, until they occurred almost every day. The pain was always the most distressing symptom, and the patient would often voluntarily excite vomiting in order to relieve the distress.

Finally, he was placed on a milk diet. This diet he carried out strictly for six months. For the first four months the attacks of pain and vomiting ceased, but, after that time, again recurred.

In the summer of 1874 he came under my care. I commenced to wash out his stomach with the pump, at first, every other day, and then every day. He soon learned to use the