

## PIGMENTATION CIRRHOSIS OF THE LIVER IN A CASE OF HÆMOCHROMATOSIS.

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THE case which forms the subject of this paper was brought before the Montreal Branch of the British Medical Association in May 1898 by Professors Adami and Stewart, and a brief reference is made to it by the former in his article on "Cirrhosis" (<sup>1</sup>). For reasons which it is unnecessary to give here, a detailed description has been delayed until the present time.

I am indebted to Professors Adami and Stewart for permission to report this rare condition, the first of its kind observed on this continent, and indeed the first of its kind recorded as occurring in the female. The latter I have to thank for the clinical report, and the former for the post-mortem notes, for access to the material, and for direction in its study throughout.

The case was one of cirrhosis associated with so-called hæmochromatosis, the *cirrhose pigmentaire* of the French school. An advanced cirrhosis of the liver, and a moderate degree of chronic interstitial pancreatitis, were associated with an extensive deposit of iron-containing pigment in the tissues. There was a bluish-grey slaty tinge of the skin, and a rusty-brown discoloration of the internal organs. Sections of the liver and pancreas were loaded with golden-brown pigment, responding with a deep blue colour to Perl's test for iron, which was present also, though in a lesser degree in the spleen, suprarenals, and heart muscle.

The few cases analogous to this that are on record have, of late years, been the subject of much discussion among Continental writers. Indeed, the combined occurrence of hæmosiderosis and cirrhosis, and, what is more, the very frequent combination of hæmosiderosis, cirrhosis, and diabetes, which is the more common, forming the *diabète bronze* of French writers, invites inquiry, for the etiology of the three conditions is alike obscure. Whether the one condition be dependent upon the other, or whether all are due to the action of one common cause, there may lie in their coexistence some clue to a pathogenesis that is as yet incompletely understood.

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