

"ACUTE DILATATION OF THE STOMACH"*

With Report of Two Cases

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The subject of acute dilatation of the stomach was recently rather forcibly brought to my attention by the following cases:

I. Miss L. G., aged twenty-eight, gave a history of indigestion for many years characterized by flatulence and by what she termed bilious attacks. When about ten years old had what appears to have been a severe attack of appendicitis. At one p.m. February 26th, she was taken with severe pains in abdomen and vomiting; no rise of temperature or pulse rate, very little tenderness. At ten p.m. condition much the same. Next morning the temperature had risen to 101 and pulse to 120. Pain not so severe, but tenderness and local rigidity were marked. Patient removed to hospital and operated upon at once. Appendix was found greatly enlarged, gangrenous and full of pus, but not ruptured. Removed without much difficulty and abdomen closed with a small drain leading down to stump of appendix. Ether was given by the drop method and by an experienced anaesthetist and was well taken. Time of operation: fifty-five minutes. Patient's condition following operation was good, but during the afternoon there was some vomiting and belching of gas. About six p.m. her condition became alarming. Complained of extreme pain in the epigastrium, pulse was barely perceptible, expression drawn and anxious and skin of a greyish blue tinge. Upper part of abdomen greatly distended. Patient was belching a great deal of gas and bringing up mouthfuls of greenish brown flocculent material. A diagnosis of acute dilatation of the stomach was made and stomach tube passed. It was found necessary to pass the tube much further than the usual nineteen

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