

purulent, offensive matter. Stomach and splenic flexure of the colon lay behind the sac, being crowded downwards, so that the colon was behind and below the sac. It appeared to be between the greater omentum in front, and the stomach, pancreas, spleen, left kidney and splenic flexure behind, the spleen and left kidney being intimately embedded in the posterior wall of the sac. Pancreas healthy, spleen slightly small and rather hard, evidently the result of pressure. Liver and kidneys healthy. No evidences of enteric fever or other intestinal abnormalities. Heart remarkably small, contracted, and free from clots. A serous effusion into the left pleural cavity. Until the spleen was found and examined the sac was supposed to spring from that organ. Two fistulous passages, readily admitting the tip of the little finger, were found to connect the sac with the alimentary canal. Two funnel-shaped, round ulcers existed on the greater curvature of the stomach, one  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch, the other  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches from the pylorus. At the bottom of these ulcers perforations nearly a half inch in diameter opened directly into the abscess cavity. It was clearly a case of two round ulcers of the stomach, running a very rapid course, with perforation and encapsulation of effused gastric contents and exudates. The perforations were evidently primarily from the stomach and not the reverse, as the gastric ulcers were typical and funnel-shaped, with smaller perforations at the bottom.

It is certainly wonderful that gastric ulcer should run such an anomalous course, and it is not strange that the physicians were thrown off the right scent, by the strange course of the disease.

That a patient should be brought, in two months, from supposed health to death by such a series of unusual events, seems worthy of note.

It shows in connection with the case above referred to: (a) how rapidly destructive gastric ulcers may at times be; (b) how masked the symptoms occasionally are; the wonderful powers of the peritoneum, under some circumstances, to fence out offending matter.—*James H. Dunn, in Northwestern Lancet.*

SACCHARINE.—Saccharine is said to be soluble in 330 parts of water, but it is found that for

the commercial article sometimes 600 parts of water are necessary, and sometimes as much as 1200 parts. From the published analyses it is very evident that the substance, as placed on the market, is very far from pure, and, furthermore, that the methods of manufacture must vary, as there is no uniformity nor regularity in the impurities.

As to the physiological action of saccharine there is some divergence of opinion, which may be accounted for by the great variation in the composition of the commercial substance. Pure saccharine may exert a very disturbing influence upon digestion if used in sufficiently large amounts. A committee, looking into this question for the sake of public hygiene in France, reported that in the proportion of 1 or 2 to 1000 it hinders the fermentative action of saliva, and in amounts of 2 or 3 to 1000, it interferes with the gastric action on albuminoids. The action of the pancreas is also retarded. Hence, some maintain that its use should be altogether prohibited, and especially that it should not be used, as is so often recommended, by diabetic patients, for whom a good digestion is so essential. Others say that the amounts entering into use with foods are so small that no effect upon the digestion can be observed, even after prolonged use. It is not one of those substances stored up in the body and so acting cumulatively, but is passed off largely unchanged and mostly within twenty-four hours through the urine. Stevenson and Wooldridge maintain that it is harmless, even in comparatively large doses, and when the use is long continued. Dujardin-Beaumetz says that it yields good results with diabetic patients, and that it is a question whether one can continue taking it with impunity. Bruylants concludes from his experiments that in the amounts in which it is generally used it cannot be regarded as an antiseptic, and that it has no injurious action, unless there be a possible harmful effect after long continued use.

Animals show great repugnance to food sweetened with saccharine. Bees, wasps, dogs, and cats, all readily detect the presence of the saccharine, and refuse to touch it. Dogs refuse to lick hands that have been moistened by a solution of saccharine, and not even great hunger can drive cats to partake of their