

hol may have been the principal or at least an adjuvant factor. He ascribes the increasing number of cases of heart weakness and heart failure to the increasing use of alcohol. Patients on the road to recovery from pneumonia or the like succumb suddenly to heart failure, as the heart muscle has been weakened by the use of alcohol. He urges physicians to study the effects of what he calls "small alcoholism" in their hospital patients, and to separate them into two groups, those treated with and without alcohol, to study its pathologic action on a large scale.—*Riforma Medica (Naples) and J.A.M.A.*

Gastric Hyperacidity and Gastric Symptoms.

The writer, with a view to confirming Stockton's theory that the symptoms credited to gastric hyperacidity are due mainly to a hyperesthesia of the gastric mucosa, and to ascertain what other factor might also be effective, has studied thirty cases under his observation. In about one-half of his cases the cause of the irritation and pain lay in the existence of decided gastric motor insufficiency or of hypersecretion. In fourteen, however, no cause could be demonstrated for the hyperesthesia, but in nearly all of these the gastric symptoms were directly connected with overfatigue or worry, or were part of a general nervous irritability. All the patients were benefited and ultimately cured by treatment directed to the nervous condition. This, with the fact that the symptoms do not appear to depend necessarily on the amount of acidity and may be absent when it exists to a very high degree, seems to indicate that in these cases it was the local manifestation of a general state of nervous irritability. This was the view taken by Kaufmann, Stockton and Musser, each of whom have reported similar cases. The practical bearings of this on the treatment are obvious, as that for the neurosis must differ from that of cases due to ulcer, retention, or hypersecretion. Steele finds a liberal mixed diet non-irritating to the sensitive mucosa, and the use of nerve sedatives, together with agents to relieve acidity, most useful. His experience also agrees with that of Musser as to the value of nux vomica, in doses slowly ascending to the physiologic limit, in the treatment of these cases.—*J. D. Steele, Journal of the American Medical Association.—Medicine.*

The next Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons will be held at Washington, May 7th, 8th and 9th.