

A CASE OF ACTINOMYCOSIS OF THE LIVER.

IN the article on actinomycosis in Alibutt's "System of Medicine," the following statement is made:—"The clinical course of actinomycosis is generally chronic but in exceptional cases there is rapid dissemination owing to the fungus having found entrance into the vascular system. Sometimes it pursues the course of an acute infectious disease, or even pyaemia, but such acute cases are rare and any considerable pyrexia, suppuration or septic infection is as a rule caused by accidentally associated pyogenic organisms.

But the manifestations of the disease may be as protean as the organs which the disease attacks are various. When one viscus alone is affected there is often no guide to the real nature of the disease. It is for this reason that so many of the cases recorded have only been recognized after death; during life they have been regarded as abscesses, empyema, appendicitis, vertebral caries, tuberculosis, sarcoma, etc. In a large proportion of cases no certain diagnosis can be made without the detection of the fungus in the discharges."

The following brief history of a recent case is given as illustrative of the above.

The first indication in the case of the patient, a young married lady who had previously borne two children, was in the latter part of April, 1901, when she was awakened in the early morning by pain of a lancinating character in the right lumbar region. At the time she was visiting in the country at some distance from the city. Mustard and hot fomentations were used and as chills and fever were complained of quinine was given for about ten days.

Then a doctor was called in attendance and a diagnosis was given of possible appendicitis and extra-peritoneal abscess. I saw the case in consultation shortly afterwards and found considerable tenderness over the right lobe of liver with pain on