

of a mucous, bilious character. She became jaundiced. On examination found the stomach distended and tender on palpation. The liver was not enlarged. No heart or kidney trouble. Examination of the stomach contents gave practically the same results as in last case. From the history, the physical examination and the examination of the contents of the stomach, the same diagnosis was made as in case III., viz., chronic gastritis. The treatment adopted was lavage of stomach, hydrochloric acid, and a bitter, peptonized food for a time. As the patient improved milk and broths without being peptonized were administered. Patient became fairly well; went about the house, and even took outdoor exercise; resumed her ordinary diet.

In November last was again called to see her. Found her in much the same condition. Now, however, although she was able to take plenty of liquid food, she did not appear to assimilate it. Her diet was milk, broth, koumys, albumen water, of which in 24 hours she would take at least three pints. Her muscles wasted; she became much emaciated. This continued until December 28th last, when she appeared to gain in strength. Since then she has steadily improved, and now she is able to sit up about two hours every day. Her pulse has become stronger, and she, herself, feels her strength returning. For weeks she lay in bed listless, taking no interest in what was going on. Now she is bright and cheerful, and wishes to know about everything that is going on.

In this case, as I have said, we had to deal with a chronic gastritis, primary in its nature. I am of opinion, however, that the inflammatory condition has now extended beyond the stomach, and has involved the intestinal tract. This, it appears to me, would account for the non-assimilation of the easily digested food which alone she was allowed. Digestion is a complex act. The mouth, the stomach and the bowels are the parts in which the act is carried on. When the stomach fails to perform its duty the food is passed on into the bowels in a condition unfit for the action of the intestinal juices. As a consequence fermentation takes place, gases are formed, the bowels are distended; they in time, owing to the irritation thus set up, become inflamed and unable to perform their functions properly.