

give as high a percentage as 75, while others a much lower one. Taken in a large number of cases, the figure just given will be found practically correct. In many cases it is low in range, only a few points above normal, or 99° or 100° F. In a few cases it runs to 103° or 104° with chills and hectic symptoms. In these cases there are usually adhesions and pockets of pus, or abscesses in the liver. There will be about 40 per cent. of the cases with a normal or subnormal temperature.

Constipation is present in about 70 per cent. of the cases.

Of the physical signs the following may be noted as of importance in enabling one to make a diagnosis:

Much has been said upon the subject of free hydrochloric acid in the stomach. It is absent in over 90 per cent. of stomach cancer cases, and it may be said that free hydrochloric acid is only found in those cases of cancer that have arisen from gastric ulcer. In atrophic gastritis and achylia gastrica free hydrochloric acid is wanting; but there are other conditions present in such cases, and the usual signs and symptoms of cancer are absent, so that a diagnosis can generally be made. The absence of free hydrochloric acid is, therefore, a sign of much value.

With regard to lactic acid it may be said that it is present in about 80 per cent. of cancer cases. Its presence argues strongly in favor of the stomach trouble being cancerous, but its absence is of comparatively little value as evidence that cancer is not present.

Enlarged supraclavicular and axillary glands and metastasis to the umbilicus have been noted in a certain number of cases. The tissues of the umbilicus or linea alba become indurated and adherent to the integument.

To all the above, the stomach tube often brings up fragments of tissue that, under the microscope, reveals the true nature of the case.

Careful search should be made for any tumor that may be present. The entire area of the stomach must be examined by inspection, palpation and percussion, and an anesthetic may be required. It must be borne in mind that, as a rule, the existence of tumor cannot be discovered early in the disease, so that diagnosis by the presence of a tumor is usually a late diagnosis. In at least 20 per cent. of cases with tumor, it is not discovered during the lifetime of the patient.