REPORT OF A CASE OF
STERCORACEOUS VOMITING WHICH
CONTINUED SEVENTEEN DAYS.

By F. H. MOSES, M.R.C.S.

ANNE D—, aged thirty-nine. Had five children, all living and in good health. Complexion florid; spare habit. Has never suffered from any serious illness before, but has occasionally for the last two months complained of pain at the epigastrium, and been in the habit of reclining in the afternoon, which appeased it. Was treated a fortnight previous to this attack for a "sore-throat," which soon yielded to simple measures. Vomiting commenced on Sept. 2nd, the matter ejected being of a bilious character. An aperient was ordered, and an effervescing mixture to be taken every three hours. Vomiting recurred every three or four hours during the day and night. Tongue coated with a yellow fur; pulse 80, soft and compressible.

Sept. 4th.—Vomiting still continues, but the matter ejected has assumed quite a different character, being distinctly stercoraceous. Bowels have not acted; tongue furred and dry; thirst excessive. To have an enema of soap and water, which came away in about twenty minutes after it was administered, having hardened pieces of feculent matter floating in it. Rectum examined, but nothing unnatural observed. No pain elicited on pressure in any part of the abdomen, and its several regions healthy on percussion. Five minims of liquor of hydrochlorate of morphia to be added to each dose of the mixture.

5th.—Vomiting has been very excessive during the night, and about five pints of liquid feculent matter, smelling very offensively, is shown me. Pulse 90, of fair volume; skin moist; tongue furred; thirst excessive. To have another enema, which brought away hardened pieces of feculent matter, as previously. Vomiting recurs every three or four hours, and anything but the mixture is immediately ejected. To continue the mixture, with the addition of a minim of Scheele's hydrocyanic acid to each dose.

6th.—Vomiting, of a feculent character as before, continued during the night. Feels much exhausted; appearance little altered; tongue dry and furred; thirst excessive. Feels vomiting excited if pressure is made in the region of the descending colon. Vomiting continues through the day. An enema, containing an ounce of castor oil mixed with a pint of warm gruel, administered, which brings away similar pieces of hard feculent matter. To continue mixture.

7th.—Vomiting continues; about seven pints ejected in the twenty-four hours, distinctly stercoraceous and very offensive. No pain; abdomen normal in appearance and on percussion, as previously; no intussusception, stricture of bowel, or hernia exists. To go on with the medicine; to have enema repeated, which comes away in about a quarter of an hour after it has been administered, but no feculent matter.

8th.—Passed a fearful night, as she expresses it; vomiting every two or three hours, and its character as usual. Pulse 90, of fair volume; general appearance good; skin moist; tongue dry and furred; thirst excessive. To go on with the medicine.

9th.—A similar state of symptoms generally, vomiting recurring every three or four hours. To have another enema, which comes away unaltered; to continue mixture.

10th.—Rambles a good deal, and appears in a semi-comatose condition at times, which she is soon roused from; pulse 100, of fair volume; skin moist; tongue dry; thirst excessive; no pain; abdomen as usual. To have half a grain of opium every four hours; omit the effervescing mixture.

11th.—Passed a restless night, vomiting matter of the same feculent character every three or four hours. Pulse 110, and has become weaker in volume. To have a tablespoonful of brandy every four hours, and beef-tea *ad libitum*.

12th.—Vomits still, and beef-tea and brandy ejected. To have a mixture composed of valerian and camphor, every dose of which she vomits. Pulse 120, becoming thready; thirst excessive; countenance sunken; expresses herself as feeling more comfortable.

13th.—Vomits still; pulse very thready, 125; countenance much sunken; thirst excessive; tongue dry and furred. To continue the opium pill every five hours.

14th.—Vomits from five to six pints of feculent matter in the twenty-four hours. Is very feeble, and gives up all hope of recovery; pulse 130, feeble; other symptoms as before.

15th and 16th.—Remains as previously, very weak and almost unconscious; pulse hardly perceptible; no pain (as at first) on manipulating or percussing abdomen, and it is perfectly normal in appearance.

17th.—As before; if any change, still weaker; vomiting still continues. To have one-fifth of a grain of nitrate of silver and one-sixth of a grain of muriate of morphia in a pill every three hours.

18th.—Vomits in the evening, but less in quantity than before, and very little during the night.

19th.—A shade better; has had no return of vomiting.

20th.—Copious action per rectum similar to the vomit in appearance; bowels act two or three times daily; pulse is improved. Feels much better, and can rest comfortably at night.

Has since gradually gained strength, and on the 30th was quite convalescent.

Burton-on-Trent, October, 1867.

A CASE OF
FATAL HÆMATEMESIS, WITH REMARK-
ABLE PATENT CONDITION OF THE
GASTRIC BLOODVESSELS.

By WALTER D. JONES, M.D., M.R.C.P. LOND.

A. B—, aged fifty, was taken early in January of the present year with vomiting of blood, voiding of bloody stools, and a sense of heat in the region of the stomach, with sickness, but without pain on either side, shoulder, or stomach. On pressing and examining the region of the liver, no pain was produced, nor any enlargement felt. The stools were said to have been bloody for many months past, although there were no hæmorrhoids; but the hæmatemesis is only of recent date, and was only occasional. The blood vomited was of a grumous, half-digested appearance. Appetite quite gone. Pulse 90, regular, but soft and languid. Anæmia and great prostration of strength were present; the face was pale, with a tinge of red on each cheek. The action of the heart was quite regular and healthy. There was œdema of the ankles, and the countenance was anxious.

The symptoms were relieved by treatment; but on Jan. 30th he died suddenly, with a slight convulsive struggle. During this interval the bloody vomiting ceased for three days, but the bloody stools continued. The patient had served at Hong-Kong twenty-five years ago, and was invalided home with ague and dysentery, which continued for some months after his return.

The post-mortem examination was made on February 2nd. Upon removing the sternum, and examining the cavity of the chest, the lungs were found to be in a healthy state. The chest appeared, however, rather contracted, and not well developed. Several ounces of fluid serum were found in the cavity of the pleura; more fluid than usual was found in the pericardium. The exterior of the heart was in a perfectly healthy state, and upon the most minute examination the heart was found to be perfectly healthy and sound in every respect. When the abdomen was opened, the intestines were much inflated with air, and a considerable quantity of serum was found in the cavity of the abdomen, and some slight adhesions between the peritoneal coverings—not unusual. The liver showed very great derangement; it was of a very pale-yellowish colour, much smaller than usual; its exterior was rough, hard, exhibiting a granulated and cirrhotic appearance, with hardly any blood found in its substance; both lobes were diseased alike. The gall-bladder contained no bile at all, and was, like the liver, of a very pale colour. To the feel, the liver was rough, tuberculated, knotty, and hard. The spleen was much enlarged, and of a very pale appearance, but not rough or tuberculated like the liver. Upon examination of the stomach, about forty-five ounces of coagulated blood were found contained in it. The exterior as well as the interior surface appeared free from disease; there was no ulcer or abrasion. There was no disease in either the cardiac or pyloric orifice; but the bloodvessels throughout the whole viscus were very much enlarged, some of them large enough to admit the point of the little finger.

It is evident that in this case life was sustained for a long time by the blood having been digested a second time, as it were, after it had passed once through the circulation, and re-