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LATENT ENCEPHALOID DISEASE OF THE STOMACH, OF A VERY
PECULIAR FORM, IN A LAD 15 YEARS OF AGE; THE FIRST OF
HIS SICKNESS DATING FROM A FALL THAT HE RECEIVED
ONLY TEN MONTHS BEFORE HIS DEATH.

[Read before the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, Dec. 12th, 1864.]

BY J. B. S. JACKSON, M.D.

ON the 17th ult., I received from Dr. J. M. Nye, of Lynn, who made the dissection, the stomach, with a tumor external to it, and a portion of the liver; and the stomach, with a cast in plaster of the same, is now before the Society for examination. The disease of this organ is not continuous, but in separate patches, circular or irregularly oval, about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to rather more than 2 inches in diameter; altogether there may be about a dozen of them, but those that I suppose to be the most recent seemed to be indicated by little else than opacity of the mucous membrane, though their outline is sufficiently well defined, as is that of the patches generally. The larger patches, of which there are four or five, are raised from two to three lines above the surrounding surface, soft in appearance and to the feel, and of a dull yellowish opaque color, with some small dark-red ecchymoses over the surface of two or three. The whole surface of one of these last is deeply ulcerated, but without any induration about it; and there may be a trace of the same in one of the others. Otherwise the stomach is perfectly healthy; there being no disease within some distance of the orifices, and this last fact explains the absence of those symptoms that are usually associated with cancer of the stomach. A comparative latency of the disease is not unfrequently noticed in cases of common encephaloid as distinguished from scirrhus of the organ; this last affecting particularly the pyloric portion and involving more or less the pylorus, whereas the encephaloid is found generally in a large, single, defined circular patch in the small curvature, and not far from midway between the two orifices; the rest of the stomach being sometimes perfectly healthy, and the latency complete.

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The tumor referred to was closely connected with the stomach and duodenum, was nearly as large as the fist, and in structure as marked an encephaloid as I have ever seen; being of the soft variety, with some traces of effused blood. The disease of the stomach, I have taken it for granted, was of the same nature, though the patches were not cut through; and my idea is that it preceded the formation of the disease external to the organ, though this last was so very extensive.

The portion of liver that I saw was quite healthy, and so Dr. N. found the whole organ, though it was considerably enlarged; the bile in the gall-bladder being thick and dark. The other organs he found healthy, and quite free from cancerous disease.

A few days after I received the specimens, I had an opportunity, through the kindness of Dr. Nye, of seeing Dr. A. D. Dearborn, of Saugus, the family physician, and also the parents of the lad. The father, the Rev. W. P. Upham, had been a missionary amongst the Cherokee Indians for the last twenty-two years, and his children were all born in the West. The subject of the present case was rather smaller than the rest, but always very active in mind and body. For about a year, previously to the last two years, he had had occasional but not well-marked attacks of intermittent fever; the other children being much more severely affected than he was. Last July the family moved from the West, and have since resided in this vicinity. The parents and their other children are quite healthy, and they are not aware of there ever having been a case of cancer upon either side of the family.

On the 7th of September, as nearly as Mr. and Mrs. U. can remember, their son jumped from the back of a wagon, when it was going at the rate of about six miles an hour, and fell with considerable force "upon his face," i. e. upon the front of his body. He was able to walk home, however—about three fourths of a mile—but from that time he complained of an occasional and paroxysmal pain in the epigastrium, and, when he exerted himself, it would be quite severe. Up to the time of this accident the parents insist upon the fact that he was perfectly well; though for a year and a half or two years previously he had ceased to grow. This last fact would hardly be explained by the attacks of fever that he had had in the West; and I cannot think, from the entire absence of symptoms, that the cancer had been forming all that time, however latent the disease sometimes is.

About four weeks after this accident, he was sent upon an errand about a mile from home; and, a buggy coming along, he took hold behind it, and, as the horse was going very fast, it was as much as he could do to keep up with it; and yet he was afraid to let go, lest he should fall. When he arrived, however, at the place where he was to stop, he was obliged to let go his hold, and he again fell, with great violence, "upon his face." It was with great difficulty

that he walked home; immediately upon his arrival he threw himself upon the sofa, very much exhausted, and complaining of great distress at the epigastrium. He recovered, however, from this second accident so far as to be able to go to school for two weeks longer. At the end of this time he went to Boston with his father, and passed the day in seeing the sights of the city; going up into the cupola of the State House, and walking altogether, Mr. U. thinks, about six miles. As usual on such occasions, he took no proper dinner, but ate pie three or four times in the course of the day.

On the day following this excursion, and about four weeks before his death, which occurred on the 16th of November, he dined, though without appetite, upon roast lamb, and immediately afterwards vomited. From that time he was sick, and his case was regarded as one of typhoid fever. For the first week his mother took care of him, but afterwards he was attended by Dr. Dearborn. The chief symptoms were a moderate increase of heat, but without chill; restlessness, wakefulness, not merely anorexia, but almost a disgust at the idea of food, and of which he took scarcely any, vomiting twice at the end of the first week and again once three days before death; yellowness of the skin, which during the last week was quite marked, and was fully explained when the bile ducts were found so imbedded in the tumor; pain, marked stupor with some delirium for about three or four days previously to the last two, and loss of flesh and strength. No epistaxis. Early in his sickness he complained much of pain in the small of the back, left hypochondrium, and particularly in the left upper extremity; this last being acute, and, as he thought, keeping him awake. These pains, however, afterwards subsided, excepting that in his back, which continued as long as he was conscious enough to complain of it. The vomiting at the end of the first week came on after he had taken peppermint water for a distress in his stomach, and for which no cause could be assigned; there was no nausea nor retching, except when he vomited. As to the matters vomited, they were colored by bile on the last occasion, but on the two first they were not observed. The bowels were never loose, and when they were at all confined they were very easily acted upon by medicine. Soon after Dr. D. saw him, he found an entire absence of bile in the dejections, but after a dose of calomel, and a few blue pills, which were continued for some days, the color was sufficiently well. As organic disease was not thought of, no particular examination of the epigastrium was made, and the tumor was not felt.

On dissection, the disease about the stomach was of course regarded as a sufficient cause of death, and no examination was made of the intestines with reference to the typhoid fever that was supposed to have existed. This is to be regretted, as, according to Mr. Paget (*Surg. Pathology*, p. 553), Rokitsansky has found "medullary cancers sometimes developed in great numbers in the course and

among the phenomena of a very acute typhoid fever." I doubt extremely, however, if any affection of Peyer's patches would have been found in this case.

I have spoken of this as a latent case of cancer; for though there were symptoms pointing to the stomach, they were not such as would have led any one to have suspected serious disease. It was latent, though not completely so.

As to the duration of the disease, the lad did not seem to have been in any way sick until ten weeks before his death, when he met with his first fall; and though that would be an exceedingly short period for the formation of such an amount of disease as was found, I believe that it did not exist previously, whatever amount of tendency there may have been in the system to it. Of the two most rapidly fatal cases of encephaloid disease that I have met with, so far as I can remember, one terminated, according to my notes, in four and a half months. The other was that of a gentleman of this city, who, whilst fording a river in the Island of Cuba, during the month of March, met with an accident that obliged him to get out of his carriage and stand up to his waist in water for about an hour; from that time he sickened, and on the 2d of July he died. In both of these cases very extensive disease was found in the abdomen and thorax. Lebert, however, in his work on Cancer, refers to a case of cancer of the womb that he had seen, and which proved fatal in two months; and he remarks that a duration of from three to six months is more frequent than one of eight or ten years. Mr. Paget found that in 45 cases 6 proved fatal within six months; and it may be further remarked that as cancer, after it is known to exist, is sometimes seen to grow with surprising rapidity, we may conceive that in some cases it may do so from the very commencement.

The public, and careless medical observers, who are not much better, are very much inclined to trace back disease to some exciting cause. Cancer is often attributed to an external injury; and with so little reason, probably, in most cases, that some are almost disposed to question whether it is ever produced in this way. That blows upon the breast, the testicle, and the extremities, sometimes induce cancer, I have no question. The first case above referred to, for instance, and which proved fatal in four and half months, was that of a sailor, who fell and struck his testicle; though he suffered but little at the time, pain and swelling came on in two weeks, and from that time he sank. And, in another case, a gentleman was kicked upon the testicle by a child in bed; the organ swelled from that time, but it was not until three years afterwards that it was removed. I was present at the operation, a most cruel and unwarrantable one, as carcinomatous tumors could be felt at the time within the abdomen, and, the patient dying only three days afterwards, I found an immense amount of internal disease. That cancer should be produced by direct external violence, does not seem to me a very unreasonable

idea, however the fact may have been questioned; but that it should occur in an internal organ, as the result in any way of a fall, and by which no one organ, so far as we can see, could be directly injured, however severe the shock might be to the whole system, is certainly very remarkable. The operation of the causes of disease, however, is a most mysterious subject; and cases will now and then be met, in which it seems to me much more unphilosophical to shut our eyes to the facts than to allow a connection that we cannot explain. I have referred to the case of a gentleman who stood up to his waist in water for an hour, sickened from that time, and died of extensive cancerous disease; how such an exposure could have produced internal cancer we certainly cannot understand; and yet, if he had not been so exposed, he might perhaps have lived for years. Neither in the case of Mr. Upham's son can we explain the occurrence of cancer of the stomach by the fall or falls; and yet, if they had not occurred, I suppose that he might have been alive at this day.

The occurrence of cancer of the stomach at the age of 15 years, and the peculiar anatomical form of the disease in the above case, are facts that require no comment; and, I would only say further, that, as a whole, it presents as many interesting points as any case of cancer that I have ever examined.

CASES OF TUMORS.

BY RICHARD M. HODGES, M.D.

[Read before the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, and communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

NINETEEN tumors and outgrowths were removed from patients entering the Surgical Wards of the west Wing of the Massachusetts General Hospital between July 1st and October 31st, 1864. Their nature and locality were as follows:—

1 Glandular—neck.	2 malignant—face.
2 “ thyroid body.	1 “ sub-maxillary.
1 “ testicle.	3 “ breast. [rinæum.
1 Fatty—shoulder.	1 “ (melanotic)—groin and pe-
1 Exostosis—forehead	1 Encysted—orbit.
1 Erectile—orbit.	1 “ breast.
1 Malignant—superior maxillary bone.	1 Horn—lower lip.

The following cases, of which the specimens were shown at meetings of the Improvement Society, are reported in detail, as possessing special interest. Others are already reported in the Extracts from the Records of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement.

IVORY EXOSTOSIS OF THE FRONTAL REGION.

S. C., farmer, æt. 24, born in New Hampshire, entered Mass. Gen. Hospital, Oct. 16th, 1864. Has always enjoyed uninterrupted good health, and has no hereditary taint, rheumatic tendency or acquired disease. He enters the Hospital for a tumor of the frontal region

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