AN

INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
ON

Erosion and Ulceration of the Stomach

SUBMITTED TO THE
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BY

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of

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To:

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Erosion & Ulceration of the Cervix Uteri

General inflammation of the cervix is said to be of rare occurrence, but partial inflammation is frequent and its consequences severe. From causes hereafter to be mentioned, the cervix becomes irritated, an undue amount of blood is invited into the part, congestion supervenes, inflammatory action is set up, the nutritive process is arrested, death ensues, a relation of continuity is effected by absorption, and simple erosion a decided ulceration is the result.

An opportunity for inspecting these cases is rarely afforded the physician until erosion or ulceration has taken place; for only then do the symptoms become so marked as to attract the attention or excite the fears of the patient. When however, an opportunity is afforded for examination, the cervix uteri will be found greatly altered in its physiological appearance. The soft velvety feel of the mucous membrane in its normal state
will have disappeared. The cervix will be swollen and puffy, of a deep red color as if contused, and exhibit minute points of exoriating, which enlarge by evulacence. The attention of the patient is generally excited by an obstinate leucorrhoeal discharge from the vagina, by an aching pain in the back, diminution of the catamenial discharge and disorder of the general health. Ensin may generally be suspected when the leucorrhoea cannot be arrested by the remedies usually resorted to for its suppression. Under these circumstances it will become necessary to make an examination for vaginamo. And if the finger alone be employed in the examination the disease may be overlooked, or if detected may be mistaken for cancer or some kindred affection. But if in this manner the disease be detected all that can be perceived by the finger will be a roughening of the surface with
anne or less incrustation of the edges of
the cervix. The speculum, however, will
reveal to us the congested state of
the cervix with an extremely superficial
erosion or peeling-off of the mucous membrane.

The symptoms of erosion will
vary with the inflammation and duration
of the disease. In all cases there is an
aching pain in the back, which is
aggravated by the upright position
a whitish or yellowish discharge from the
vagina, which is often tinged with blood.
In some instances there is a sense of
weight in the pelvis, with a bearing down
sensation when in the erect posture. If
married, the patient will experience
more or less pain during the conjugal
embrace, which is followed in many
instances by slight hemorrhage.

If the disease
is permitted to advance, it is almost
certain to interfere with the healthy
performance of the menstrual function.
At one time it is increased, and at another it is diminished and irregular in its occurrence; but the most common result is the induction of dysmenorrhea. In addition to these effects it may prevent conception, but if the disease is superinduced after conception has taken place, it may, from the irritation and general disturbance which it produces, cause abortion, especially where there is a predisposition to it. When Erimin is not arrested, the symptoms of the disease and the sufferings of the patient are far more augmented. The pain becomes constant, the discharge abundant, the tongue leuked, the breath irregular. The strength fails and confirmed ill health is the sad result.

The causes of this malady are very obscure. Cold, either local or general may occasion it, but in all probability local injury is the most common cause,
for it is an established fact, that the disease is confined principally to the married state, and to those who indulge most generally in the pleasures of love. It is frequent among real wants and but rare among those who live in virtuous singleness; and when it does occur among the latter class it may with propriety be attributed to cold.

The true disease with which Enrion is likely to be confused is leucorrhoea, from which it may be distinguished by the obtrusiveness of the discharge notwithstanding the treatment. When an examination is made the nature of the disease is no longer doubtful, nor to be mistaken or confused with another. These are the symptoms which usually characterize enriion or excoriatio of the mucous membrane of the cervix uteri—a disease in which there appears to be no natural tendency whatever to a cure, a remarkable feature when we...
consider the corrective power of Nature in other parts of the system.

Treatment.

In the treatment of this affection we rely chiefly upon local applications, although constitutional remedies are frequently indicated and should be administered when required. But, under the most careful and successful treatment, the radical cure is a tedious process and often discouraging to both the patient and physician. Obstructions, however, is characteristic of all diseases of the mucous membrane and a dose of patience is generally indicated in their treatment.

Local application, where the engorgement is great and the inflammatory high, is signally beneficial and should never be neglected. For this purpose recourse may be had to scarification of the cervix or the direct application of leeches. In manner the congestion is relieved and the abnormal treatment is renewed. This may be repeated as often
as necessary. But the great and only reliable remedy is cauterization, and here there is some difference of opinion relative to the merit of the various caustics. The most conspicuous, however, nitrate of silver, and nitrate of mercury, nitric acid, caustic iodine. I prefer the mildest applications first, and if unsuccessful then the stronger. These remedies should be applied at least twice a week. A blister to the sacrum and astringent injections are good adjuvants. Attention should also be paid to the stomach and bowels; and the improvement of the general health.

When the inflammation has progressed to the state of ulceration proper, we have a much deeper seated disease, with considerable aggravation of the symptoms. This affection does not appear to be influenced by temperament; it may occur at any age after the establishment of the catarrh and the development of uterine activity, although it is much more frequent.
after the sexual intercourse has exposed
the uterus to additional irritation. The
ulceration is chiefly confined to the cervix
because this is more exposed to shocks
and injuries and the like, than any
other portion; and hence it has been
observed that prostitutes are particularly
liable to ulceration of the cervix. If the
disease occurs during pregnancy it
may give rise to abortion, especially
when a predisposition exists. One case known
came under my observation, in which the
disease neither prevented conception nor
induced abortion.

The cause of ulceration
are pretty much the same as those
of erosion: cold, especially during men-
struation, local injury, astringent injec-
tions, and the introduction of foreign bodies etc.
The symptoms during the inflammatory
stage and previous to ulceration are frequent
shivering with flashes of heat, acute pain
and dragging sensation in the lumbar
region, and unnatural weight about
the lower portion of the pelvis. The
pain is always increased about the
approach of the menstrual period.
Frequently the patient experiences a
degree of heat or burning sensation
in the lower portion of the abdomen.
The presence of leucorrhoea, which
in Erosion was almost pathognomonic,
is very uncertain; it may or may
not be present. These symptoms are
present in most cases, and no cheap
takes place to mark the occurrence
of ulceration. So far however from being
mitigated, it is found that all
are aggravated.

If the finger be introduced
into the vagina before ulcerative
takes place, the cervix will be
found swollen and spongy with
an increase of the natural heat
and painful under pressure. When
the ulceration is superficial it may
escape detection, unless the finger is passed very lightly and carefully on the surface. When deeper some roughness with slight depression may be perceived, limited by a regular edge, unless the ulcerations be syphilitic, in which case the depression will be bounded by an irregular margin.

If the examination be made with a speculum, the ulcerations will be found very numerous and of various sizes according to the stage of the disease. The depth also of the ulcerated points will vary considerably, some being very shallow and others very deep.

From the evidence afforded by the symptom and vaginal examination at an early period of the attack, little doubt can be entertained of the essential nature of the disease. From the syphilitic ulcers it may
be distinguished by its regular edge and the absence of the yellow discharge so common in several affections. From the sounding ulcer it may be distinguished by the absence of hemorrhage, inodorous discharge, and indifference of the constitutional symptoms. Whereas in the sounding variety a great portion of the uterus is involved at once, and destroyed, alarming hemorrhage occurs and the discharge is putrid and acrid. The simple ulceration may be distinguished from cancer by the softness and mobility of the uterus, the bland discharge, the dull pain, and absence of hemorrhage. Whereas in cancer there is hardness of the base of the ulcer, immobility of the wound, putrid discharge, acute and lancinating pain, and frequent hemorrhage. Besides the constitution will betray signs of a much more malignant and deadly invader in cancer.
These are the principal phenomena attending simple ulceration of the neck of the womb and when the disease is fully and clearly diagnosed. The following treatment will be found most beneficial in its subacute or chronic stages.

Treatments.

When called to a case of this kind during the forming or inflammatory stage, we may reasonably hope by active, energetic measures to subdue the inflammation and prevent the ulceration. The remedies therefore to be employed will depend upon the stage of the disease.

When the inflammation is considerable, great benefit may be obtained by abstracting blood from the limbs and vagina by cupping or the application of leeches to the vulva by means of the speculum to the cervix. This should be followed by warm hip-bath and
Emollient vaginal injections and
mild lacerations, which will greatly
lessen the tenderness and relieve
the painful tension of the cervix.
This cure relieves may be made
by the application of blisters to the
sacred line.

If ulceration has taken
place after emollient injections may
with some advantage precede the more
active treatment. Where the ulceration
is very superficial some advantage may
be obtained from astringent injections
and astringent ointments applied directly
to the cervix by means of the speculum.
In this manner the ointment of acetate
of lead has been employed with
entire success in a few instances.

If, however,
the disease has made considerable
progress, and obstinately resists the
milder remedies above mentioned,
the only chance of success is the
cauterization of the ulcerated surface. But previous to the application of the cautery, the inflammatory symptoms should be subdued by the means already indicated, or the cautery will only add fuel to the fire that already exists.

The cautery generally recommended have been mentioned under the treatment of erosion. The acid nitrate of mercury is probably the most reliable.

Great care should be taken to limit the application to the part affected only, as additional irritation and mischief may be engendered, to the aggravation of the disease and great inconvenience of the patient.

Should the general health be impaired by the progress of the disease, remedies should be administered to invigorate and elevate the tone of the system.

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