

PAIN IN THE STOMACH.

Pain in the layman's stomach may be due to some pathological condition in the layman's liver, spleen, gallbladder, bile-ducts, pancreas, omentum, mesentery, small bowel, colon, caecum, appendix, etc., or, in the case of the laylady, in her uterus, tubes, ovaries, in addition. In some cases on record the disease has actually been present in the stomach. The disease may be localised to any one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, etc., of the above organs.

From the above statements an observant student will immediately realise that he must exercise the most meticulous care before arriving at a diagnosis, and thereby giving his chief an opportunity of discoursing at length on the microcephalic nature of his (the student's) cranium. Chiefs retain a surprisingly accurate recollection of the humiliations of their own student days.

A full and complete history must be taken in every case. The pains of labour, as any multipara, or nullipara for that matter, will readily testify, are the most severe that the human race endures. Evidence of similar pain, together with a history of amenorrhoea, in many cases is suggestive of pregnancy; in many more cases it suggests constipation. In patients of the male sex a history of amenorrhoea need not be enquired after.

Inspection is of extreme importance. The student must note the presence of any swellings or depressions on the patient's abdomen. Slight puckering at the umbilicus may be considered normal. It should be noted that alderman's gait is not always diagnostic of pregnancy. The movements of the abdomen should be carefully noted. In this connection it may be stated that the rippings occasionally seen on a patient's abdomen are not pathological but, like a pendulous umbilicus, denote an excess of subcutaneous tissue. The practice at present commonly in vogue of two students betting on their respective powers of producing rippling movements on a corpulent patient's abdomen is a breach of medical etiquette and is to be deprecated.

The presence of any gun-shot or stab wounds should also be carefully noted as such lesions frequently cause pain in the stomach. If bowel protrudes from an abdominal stab wound, the parietal peritoneum is probably perforated.

Pog.

THE LUMP WITH A MORAL.

'Twas at O.P.D. that this scene was laid,
 'Twas at O.P.D. that a moral was made,
 Where some sixty-odd students so dearly have paid.
 No more will they offer gratuitous aid.

A patient had said to me, " Please see me fust.
 I've a lump in me neck wot 'as bloomin' well bust
 And got filled up with sand and blimy ole dust
 And wot gives me a pain in me bloody ole crust."

I felt in my pockets and took out my pen,
 Wrote down his name, occupation, and then
 We entered the room marked—" Only for men."
 'Twas full of strange students, nigh three score and ten.

To get in that room was a bit of a squeeze,
 Since the students were packed as tightly as peas,
 For surgical clerks do just as they please
 Attending to all but their own O.P.D.'s.

After making a slightly suppressed exclamation,
 The houseman prepared him for examination—
 Inspection, palpation, percussion, 'scultation,
 All to be done in the strictest rotation.

Inspection revealed just a smooth elevation
 At the back of his neck, with a brown encrustation;
 Palpation disclosed some slight induration
 The skin much adherent, with some fluctuation.

Auscultation revealed some coarse crepitation
 On coughing and sneezing and deep inhalation,
 Accompanied by a peculiar sensation
 At the back of the ears, of a minute's duration.

Students precocious palpated his neck.
 Some said sarcoma, and the patient would "vrek."
 Some said the lump, a tuberculous wreck,
 Should be treated with bismuth according to Beck.

Some said 'twas merely a large odontoma,
 Others were sure 'twas a neuro-fibroma.
 Some, that the swelling was chondro-sarcoma
 Which had spread up the face and involved the zygoma.

One junior chump, on feeling the lump,
 Said, in *his* opinion, the thing was a mump.
 He gave it a clump, to prove that the bump
 Was painful, unlike an incipient hump.

A student in front placed his hand on the breast,
 A steth. on the back, and made the request
 That the patient should say ninety-nine as a test
 For disease of his lungs and the rest of his chest.

SEQUEL.

The unwanted guests in the very front rank
 Deep from the cup of humility drank,
 Gone was their brazenness, vanished their swank
 When their fingers developed a primary chanc.

MORAL.

The Moral of this tale is easy to see—
 Please do not visit at *my* O.P.D.