of the amount of fluid obtained after a test breakfast. More than 40 c. c. is a sure indication of motor insufficiency. Large quantities are always suggestive of dilatation.

Test for the Absorptive Power of the Stomach.—Kali iodidi (pure), 0·2 gramme, is taken in a perfectly clean capsule when the stomach is empty. The sputa, tested every two or three minutes with starch and HNO_3, give the blue reaction inside of fifteen minutes in normal cases. The conclusions to be drawn from this test are, however, of little value.

II. ACUTE GASTRITIS

(Simple Gastritis; Acute Gastric Catarrh; Acute Dyspepsia).

Etiology.—Acute gastric catarrh, one of the most common of complaints, occurs at all ages, and is usually traceable to errors in diet. It may follow the ingestion of more food than the stomach can digest, or it may result from taking unsuitable articles, which either themselves irritate the mucosa or, remaining undigested, decompose, and so excite an acute dyspepsia. A frequent cause is the taking of food which has begun to decompose, particularly in hot weather. In children these fermentative processes are very apt to excite acute catarrh of the bowels as well. Another very common cause is the abuse of alcohol, and the acute gastritis which follows a drinking-bout is one of the most typical forms of the disease. The tendency to acute indigestion varies very much in different individuals, and indeed in families. We recognize this in using the expressions a "delicate stomach" and a "strong stomach." Gouty persons are generally thought to be more disposed to acute dyspepsia than others. Acute catarrh of the stomach occurs at the outset of many of the infectious fevers.

Lebert described a special infectious form of gastric catarrh, occurring in epidemic form, and only to be distinguished from mild typhoid fever by the absence of rose spots and swelling of the spleen. Many practitioners still adhere to the belief that there is a form of *gastric fever*, but the evidence of its existence is by no means satisfactory, and certainly a great majority of all cases in this country are examples of mild typhoid.

Morbid Anatomy.—Beaumont's study of St. Martin's stomach showed that in acute catarrh the mucous membrane is reddened and swollen, less gastric juice is secreted, and mucus covers the surface. Slight hæmorrhages may occur or even small erosions. The submucosa may be somewhat œdematous. Microscopically the changes are chiefly noticeable in the mucous and peptic cells, which are swollen and more granular, and there is an infiltration of the intertubular tissue with leucocytes.

Symptoms.—In mild cases the symptoms are those of slight "indigestion"—uncomfortable feeling in the abdomen, headache, depression, nausea, eructations, and vomiting, which usually gives relief. The tongue is heavily coated and the saliva is increased. In children, there are intestinal symptoms—diarrhœa and colicky pains. The pulse may be slightly increased, but in some instances is less frequent than normal; there is usually no fever. The duration is rarely more than twenty-four hours. In the severer forms the attack may set in with a chill and febrile reaction, in which the temperature rises to 102° or 103°. The tongue is furred, the breath heavy, and vomiting is frequent. The ejected substances, at first mixed with food, subsequently contain much mucus and bile-stained fluids. There may be constipation, but very often there is diarrhœa. The urine presents the usual febrile characteristics, and there is a heavy deposit of urates. The abdomen may be somewhat distended and slightly tender in the epigastric region. Herpes may appear on the lips. The attack may last from one to three days, and occasionally longer. The examination of the vomitus shows, as a rule, absence of the hydrochloric acid, presence of lactic and fatty acids, and marked increase in the mucus.

Diagnosis.—The ordinary afebrile gastric catarrh is readily recognized. The acute febrile form is so similar to the initial symptoms of many of the infectious diseases that it is impossible for a day or two to make a definite diagnosis, particularly in the cases which have come on, so to speak, spontaneously and independently of an error in diet. Some of these resemble closely an acute infection; the symptoms may be very intense, and if, as sometimes happens, the attack sets in with severe headache and delirium the case may be mistaken for meningitis. When the abdominal pains are intense the attack may be confounded with gall-stone colic. In discriminating between acute febrile gastritis and the abortive forms of typhoid fever it is to be borne in mind that in the former the temperature rises abruptly, the remissions are slighter, and the drop is more sudden. The initial bronchitis, the well-marked splenic enlargement, and the rose spots are not present. It is a very common error to class under gastric fever the mild forms of the various infectious disorders.

Treatment.—Mild cases recover spontaneously in twenty-four hours, and require no treatment other than a dose of castor oil in children or of blue mass in adults. In the severer forms, if there is much distress in the region of the stomach, the vomiting should be promoted by warm water or the simple emetics. A full dose of calomel, eight to ten grains, should be given, and followed the next morning by a dose of Hunyadi-Janos or Carlsbad water. If there is eructation of acid fluid, bicarbonate of soda and bismuth may be given. The stomach should have, if possible, absolute rest, and it is a good plan in the case of strong persons, particularly in those addicted to alcohol, to cut off all food for a day or two. The patient may be allowed soda water and ice freely. It is well not to attempt to check the vomiting unless it is excessive and protracted. Recovery is

usually complete, though repeated attacks may lead to subacute gastritis or to the establishment of chronic dyspepsia.

Phlegmonous Gastritis; Acute Suppurative Gastritis.—This is an excessively rare disease, characterized by the occurrence of suppurative processes in the submucosa. The affection is more common in men than in women. The cause is seldom obvious. It has been met with as an idiopathic affection, but it has occurred also in puerperal fever and other septic processes, and has occasionally followed trauma. Anatomically there appear to be two forms, a diffuse purulent infiltration and a localized abscess formation, in which case the tumor may reach the size of an egg, and may burst into the stomach or into the peritoneal cavity.

The *symptoms* are variable. There are usually pain in the abdomen, fever, dry tongue, and symptoms of a severe infective process, delirium and coma preceding death. Jaundice has been met with in some instances. Occasionally, when the abscess tumor is large, it has been felt externally, in one case forming a mass as large as two fists. There are instances which run a more chronic course, with pains in the abdomen, fever, and chills.

The *diagnosis* is rarely possible, even when with abscess rupture occurs, and the pus is vomited, as it is not possible to differentiate this condition from an abscess perforating into the stomach from without. It is stated, however, that Chvostek made the diagnosis in one of his cases.

Toxic Gastritis.—This most intense form of inflammation of the stomach is excited by the swallowing of concentrated mineral acids or strong alkalies, or by such poisons as phosphorus, corrosive sublimate, ammonia, arsenic, etc. In the non-corrosive poisons, such as phosphorus, arsenic, and antimony, the process consists of an acute degeneration of the glandular elements, and hæmorrhage. In the powerful concentrated poisons the mucous membrane is extensively destroyed, and may be converted into a brownish-black eschar. In the less severe grades there may be areas of necrosis surrounded by inflammatory reaction, while the submucosa is hæmorrhagic and infiltrated. The process is of course more intense at the fundus, but the active peristalsis may drive the poison through the pylorus into the intestine.

The *symptoms* are intense pain in the mouth, throat, and stomach, salivation, great difficulty in swallowing, and constant vomiting, the vomited materials being bloody and sometimes containing portions of the mucous membrane. The abdomen is tender, distended, and painful on pressure. In the most acute cases symptoms of collapse supervene; the pulse is weak, the skin pale and covered with sweat; there is restlessness, and sometimes convulsions. There may be albumen or blood in the urine, and petechiæ may develop on the skin. When the poison is less intense, the sloughs may separate, leaving ulcers, which too often lead, in the œsophagus, to stricture, and in the stomach to chronic atrophy, and finally to death from exhaustion.

The *diagnosis* of toxic gastritis is usually easy, as inspection of the mouth and pharynx shows, in many instances, corrosive effects, while the examination of the vomit may indicate the nature of the poison.

In poisoning by acids, magnesia should be administered in milk or with egg albumen. When strong alkalies have been taken, the dilute acids should be administered. For the severe inflammation which follows the swallowing of the stronger poisons palliative treatment is alone available, and morphia may be freely employed to allay the pain.

Diphtheritic or Membranous Gastritis.—This condition is met with occasionally in diphtheria, but more commonly as a secondary process in typhus or typhoid fever, pneumonia, pyæmia, small-pox, and occasionally in debilitated children. An instance of it came under my notice in pneumonia. The exudation may be extensive and uniform or in patches. The condition is not recognizable during life.

Mycotic and Parasitic Gastritis.—It occasionally happens that fungi develop in the stomach and excite inflammation. One of the most remarkable cases of the kind is that reported by Kundrat, in which the favus fungus developed in the stomach and intestine.

In cancer and in dilatation of the stomach the sarcinæ and yeast fungi probably aid in maintaining the chronic gastritis. As a rule, the gastric juice is capable of killing the ordinary bacteria. Orth states that the anthrax bacilli, in certain cases, produce swelling of the mucosa and ulceration. Klebs has described a *bacillus gastricus* which develops in the tubules and produces numerous spores, and Eug. Fraenkel has reported a case of acute emphysematous gastritis probably of mycotic origin. The larvæ of certain insects may excite gastritis, as in the cases reported by Gerhardt, Meschede, and others. In rare instances tuberculosis and syphilis attack the gastric mucosa.

III. CHRONIC GASTRITIS

(*Chronic Catarrh of the Stomach; Chronic Dyspepsia*).

Definition.—A condition of disturbed digestion associated with increased mucus formation, qualitative or quantitative changes in the gastric juice, enfeeblement of the muscular coats, so that the food is retained for an abnormal time in the stomach; and, finally, with alterations in the structure of the mucosa.

Etiology.—The causes of chronic gastritis may be classified as follows: (1) Dietetic. The use of unsuitable or improperly prepared food. The persistent use of certain articles of diet, such as very fat substances or foods containing too much of the carbohydrates. The use in excess of tea or coffee, and, above all, alcohol in its various forms. Under this heading, too, may be mentioned the habits of eating at irregular hours or too rapidly and imperfectly chewing the food. A common cause of chronic