DEATH BEGINS IN THE COLON

IMPORTANT DISCUSSION OF ALIMENTARY TOXEMIA BEFORE THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE OF GREAT BRITAIN

Recently, the subject of alimentary toxemia was discussed in London before the Royal Society of Medicine, by fifty-seven of the leading physicians of Great Britain. Among the speakers were eminent surgeons, physicians, and specialists in the various branches of medicine.

POISONS OF ALIMIENTARY INTESTINAL TOXEMIA

The following is a list of the various poisons noted by the several speakers: Indol, skarol, phenol, eresol, indiean, sulphurretted hydrogen, ammonia, histitine, indiean, urrobilin, methylmereaptan, tetramerhy-lendiamin, peatamethy lendiamine, putresein, eadaverin, neurin, eholin, musearine, butyrie acid, bera-imidazzolethy-lamine, methylgandinine, ptomarropine, botulin, tyramine, agamatine, tryptophane, sepsin, idokthylamine, sulpherroglobine.

Of the 36 poisons mentioned above, several are highly active, producing most profound effects, and in very small quantities. In eases of alimentary toxemia some one or several of these poisons is constantly bathing the delicate body cells, and setting up charges which finally result in grave disease.

SYMPTOMS AND DISEASES DUE TO ALIMENTARY TOXEMIA

It should be understood that these findings are not mere theories, but are the results of demonstrations in actual practice by eminent physicians. Of course it is not claimed that alimentary toxemia is the only cause of all the symptoms and diseases named: Although of many it may be the sole or principal cause, some of them are due to other causes as well. In the following summary the various symptoms and disorders mentioned in the discussion in London, to which reference has been made above, are grouped and classified.

THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS

Duodenal ulcer causing partial or complete obstruction of the duodenum; pylorie spasm; pylorie obstruction; distension and dilation of the stomach; gastric ulcer; cancer of the stomach; adhesions of the omentum to the stomach and liver; inflammation of the liver; cancer of the liver. The muscular wall of the intestine as well as other muscles atrophy, so that the passage of their contents is hindered. The abdominal viscera lose their normal relationship to the spine and to each other, on account of weakening of the abdominal muscles; these displacements are much more marked and serious in women. Other conditions are: Catarrah of the intestines; foul gases and foul smelling stools; colitis; acute enteritis; appendicitis, acute and chronic; adhesions and "kinks" of the intestines; visceroptosis; enlargement of spleen, distended abdomen; tenderness of the abdomen; summer diarrhea of children, inflammation of pancreas; chronic dragging abdominal pains; gastritis; cancer of pancreas; inflammatory changes of gall bladder; cancer of gall bladder; gallstones; degeneration of liver; eirrihosis of liver; infection of the gums, and decay of the teeth; ulcers in the mouth and pharynx.

HEART AND BLOOD VESSELS

Wasting and weakening of the heart muscles; micorbic cyamosis from breaking up of blood cells; fatty degeneratior of the heart; endocarditis; myocarditis; subnormal blood pressure; enlargement of the heart; the dilitation of the aorta; high blood. pressure; arteriosclerosis; permanent dilation of arteries. Dr. W. Bezley says: "There are a few phases of cardiovascular trouble (disease of heart and blood vessels) with which disorder of some part of the alimentary tract k not eawatively associated."

THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Headaches of various kinds-frontal, occupital, temporal, dull or intense, hemicrania; headache of a character to lead to a mistaken diagnosis of brain tumor. Dr. Lane tells of a case where a surgeon had proposed an operation for the removal of a tumor from the frontal lobe of the brain; the difficulty was wholly removed by the exclusion of the colon. Acute neuralgia pains in the legs; neuritis; twitching of the eyes and of muscles of face, arms, legs, etc. Lassitude; irritability; disturbances of nervous system, varying from simple headaches to absolute collapse; mental and physical depression. Insomnia; troubled sleep, unpleasant dreams; unrefreshing sleep, the patient awakening tired; excessive sleepiness, patient falling asleep in the daytime; shivery sensation across lower spinal region; burning sensations in face, hands, etc.; epileptiform tic; typhoid state; paralysis; chronic fatigue; horror of noises; morbid introspection; perverted moral feelings; melancholia, mania, loss of memory; difficulty of mental concentration; imbecility; insanity; delirium, coma.

THE EYES

Degenerative changes in the eye; inflammation of the lens; inflammation of the optic nerve; hardening of the lens; sclerotitis; sclerokeratitis; iritis; iridocyclitis; cataract; recurrent hemorrhage in the retina; eye dull and heavy.