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Sample of Autopsy Reports

QUOTATIONS

Autopsy Report by Osler.

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Montreal Gen. Hospital Reports. Case of Cirrhosis of the Liver with enlargement.- Under the care of Dr. Roddick. Reported by Mr. James Bell. Post Mortem conducted by Wm. Osler.

James H., aged 34, of intemperate habits, consulted Dr. Roddick, about the 27th of April last for jaundice. He stated that seven weeks before he had a severe fall, having tumbled down stairs. Pulse was rapid, 100. Tongue coated, and of a greenish-yellow colour. He had also diarrhoea. Great enlargement of the liver, both in the vertical and horizontal directions, was found, and patient complained of tenderness in this region. The area of dullness over the spleen was also increased. A basic murmur existed over the heart.

He was ordered a mixture of nitro-muriatic acid and taraxacum, and pulv.kino co. for the diarrhoea. Two days later on visiting him, Dr. Roddick found that he had been delirious, and ordered a draught of chloral, pot.bromid. and tr. hyoscy., and recommended his removal to a private ward in the hospital. After admission the vomiting and diarrhoea continued, the stools being of a very light colour.

He still complained of pain over the hepatic region, for which a blister was ordered.

Bismuth and sodium bicarbonate and lime water in his milk was given for the vomiting. The delirium had almost disappeared, though at times he was noticed to be incoherent, and was restless at night. This state of things continued without interruption for three or four days, when a reddish blush was discovered over the nose, preceded by a chill, increased temperature, etc. This proved to be an attack of erysipelas which extended over the face and scalp. He was treated with large doses of iron, and stimulants, but gradually sunk under the attack, and died on the 4th of May.

POST MORTEM CONDUCTED BY DR. OSLER 18 HOURS AFTER DEATH.

Body well nourished, and of fair muscular development. Rigor mortis present. Several small spots of purpura existed upon the skin, one very evident on the anterior surface of the left arm.

On making the preliminary incision a thick layer of panniculus adiposus was cut through. Muscles looked healthy.

HEART. Pericardium contained about 3vi of amber-coloured fluid. A thick layer of fat covered the right ventricle, entirely concealing the muscular substance. Right ventricle contained a small amount of blood, no clots. Tricuspid and pulmonary valves normal, and tinged of a light yellow colour. Anterior segment of former slightly thickened. Left ventricle empty, walls of normal diameter. Margins of mitral valves, and attached portions of chordae tendinae, thickened. Aortic semi-lunar valves firm, and atheromatous at the bases, Corpora Arantii well marked. Margin of one segment fenestrated.

PLEURA AND LUNGS.- No fluid in pleural cavities. Along the lower margin of the ribs a layer of fat extended towards the intercostal spaces, in some instances projecting as a small fold.

LUNGS, slightly puckered at the apices. Crepitant through-out, except part of the lower lobe of left lung which was in a state of collapse, and a similar condition in a small portion over the heart. Beneath the pleura at the base of the left lung were five or six-pence. A large amount of frothy serum, mixed with blood, escaped on section of the organs. There was post mortem congestion of posterior part of lungs. Bronchial mucous membrane healthy looking. The frothy expectoration in trachea and bronchi was of a yellowish colour.

LIVER, projected considerably below the margin of the ribs. Weight, 7 lbs. The whole surface of the organ was studded with small firm projections of the size of a pea, and larger. These nodules were of a dark greenish yellow colour, the intervening tissue being white, and were very evident at the anterior free border, and in the left lobe. On the under surface of the latter the largest nodules existed. On section the organ was excessively firm, of a greenish yellow colour, and the cut surface showed the lobules everywhere surrounded by a growth of connective tissue. The application of the usual tests did not yield the amyloid reaction. On microscopic examination, the characteristic interlobular growth of fibrous tissue was well marked. Many of the liver cells were infiltrated with fat, but not to any great extent-not sufficient to account for the enlargement of the organ. Portal vein appeared much dilated.

GALL BLADDER, elongated and filled with a mass of inspissated bile. Towards the orifice of the ductus hepaticus the bile was collected in three small balls. Pressure upon the gall bladder did not force anything out of the papilla biliaria in the duodenum.

SPLEEN.- Weight, 19 oz. Capsule a little thickened, and in places somewhat puckered. On section the pulp was soft, very friable, and of a dark purplish red colour.

KIDNEYS.-Right 9 1/2 oz. Capsule easily detached, thin and transparent. Surface of organ of a yellowish colour. Venae Stellatae beautifully marked. On section the proportion between cortical and medullary substances appeared normal; both had a greenish hue. The large collecting tubules of the pyramids were in many places filled with a dark greenish material which on examination proved to be urates and biliary matters. Left, weight oz. 8. On section it appeared to contain rather more blood than the right. General appearances the same. About the pelves of both organs there was a considerable amount of face.

STOMACH.- Contained oz.vi of semi-coagulated blood. Mucous membrane of a dark livid red color, at dependent parts, and in general thickened and tumefied, easily torn with the nail. Numerous small ecchymotic spots existed throughout the mucous membrane.

INTESTINES.- Coils of small bowel very dark externally, and contained a quantity of black matter,- altered blood. Mucous membrane stained. No ecchymoses. Large bowel contained some masses of faeces.

BLADDER.- Contained ox.xv of dark urine. Healthy.

BRAIN.- Calvarium, on removal, very thick and heavy; inner surface deeply grooved by the meningeal arteries. Diploë of a dark red colour. Dura mater of normal appearance. No clots in long sinus. Pacchionian granulations numerous and large. Arachnoid and pia mater normal; veins of the latter moderately full. Brain substance firm and healthy-looking. Puncta vasculosa evident, and the blood which exudes stains the surrounding white matter of a yellowish colour. A few drachms of fluid in the ventricles.

Cerebellum and ganglia at the base appeared healthy.