Deformity of the Lower End of the Oesophagus and the Adjacent Part of the Stomach in Pernicious Anaemia

A Preliminary Communication

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In the course of our histological studies of the gastric mucosa in anaemia, we encountered four patients with pernicious anaemia in whom the flexible gastric biopsy tube could not be made to pass an obstruction at the lower end of the oesophagus (Ref. previous paper). These patients were all women whose ages were 68, 72, 73

Fig. 1 Fig. 2

Fig. 1. Case 1. L. D., female aged 68 years, endoscopy revealed; leukoplakia affecting the lower oesophagus. Fig. 2. Case 2. A. E., female aged 72 years, laparotomy performed to exclude carcinoma. No abnormality found.

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Fig. 3 Fig. 4

Fig. 3. Case 3. C. W., female aged 73 years. Fig. 4. Case 4. H. S., female aged 62 years, intrathoracic pouch of stomach. Changes in the lower end of the oesophagus and in the wall of the intrathoracic pouch.

and 62 years respectively. None had suffered from dysphagia, but a barium examination of the oesophagus and stomach disclosed the following abnormalities in every case:-

There was a small residue of food in the oesophagus.

The barium emulsion was held up at the lower end of the oesophagus.

The intrathoracic oesophagus showed vigorous contractions.

The barium emulsion passed slowly into the stomach in a manner somewhat similar to the passage of barium emulsion in achalasia.

The fundus of the stomach around the cardiac orifice was deformed.

In one case there was a large intrathoracic pouch of stomach which showed some infiltrative changes in its walls.

The radiological findings in these patients are illustrated in the accompanying photographs.