



XVII. Diseases of the Digestive System

Bilharzial Mass. III- 4, 4. 5411

<i>A piece of intestine:</i>	<i>Includes parts of:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pelvic colon and rectum
		
	<i>Mucosa shows:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huge masses which are ulcerated • Sandy patches
	<i>Wall:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Markedly-thickened • Shows Bilharzial fibrosis • Granulomatous fibrous thickening • Firm in consistence
	<i>Lumen:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrowed • Filled with masses (polypi)
	<i>Polypi:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scattered in the rectum and pelvic colon • Numerous Of various sizes (small and large) • Simple and compound • Sessile and pedunculated • Haemorrhagic • Granular surface • Reddish-brownish and greyish • With intervening yellowish-greyish patches • Some are ulcerated
	<i>Ulcers:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few in number • Primary (on surface of mucosa of intestine) • Secondary (on surface of the polypi) • Superficial with finely-irregular margins • Brownish-greyish and reddish
		

N.B.:

- *This Bilharzial granulomatous mass in the pelvic colon was removed at autopsy from the body of a man aged 40 years who complained (for 7 years) of a swelling in the left hypochondrium with severe colicky pains at both loins, dysuria, terminal hematuria, bloody diarrhoea, anorexia, anaemia, oedema, ascites and general weakness.*
- *The clinical diagnosis was "a mass in the abdomen for investigation".*
- *At autopsy, the entire pelvic colon and rectum formed a conical mass measuring about 30 cm. in length and 12 cm, in breadth.*
- *The serosa was much thickened (dense scar tissue) with complete obliteration of the taenia coli and the normal sacculations; the mucosa, too, had lost its normal velvety appearance.*
- *Scrapings of the various lesions (sandy patches, ulcers and polypi) showed many S. ova (mansoni).*
- *Bilharziasis of the colon is a common ailment in Egypt, manifested by dyspepsia, dysenteric manifestations and secondary anaemia with asthenia.*
- *It is usually easy to find the S. ova in the stools or/and evidences, on sigmoidoscopy, of sandy patches, ulcerations and/or Bilharzial polypi.*
- *Occasionally, the Bilharzial granulomatous lesion may form so huge an intra-abdominal hypertrophic mass (with symptoms of intestinal obstruction) that pathological examination of a biopsy material is more than necessary to reveal its nature and clear the confusion with malignancy.*

