

dition as most extraordinary, and knew of nothing like it from a physiological or clinical standpoint. The drawing suggested at once a cardiac inhibition through the vagus nerve. He presumed that the pallor might be wholly explained by the condition of the heart, without any reference to the arterioles, and the anæmia might explain the convulsive condition and also the loss of consciousness. Perhaps the most remarkable thing was the suddenness of transition from one condition to the other, especially in the matter of consciousness and convulsions.

Dr. Mills stated that the views with regard to cardiac rhythm had been somewhat modified of late by striking experiments made with solutions of sodium, calcium and potassium, so that some physiologists explained cardiac rhythm now purely from a chemical standpoint. In this case, owing to the shock with certain errors in diet and probable dilatation of the heart might there not have been alterations in some chemical constituents of the blood so that the rhythm of the heart was made to vary. It was, however, all a matter of speculation with regard to this case, the facts of which sounded like a clinical romance.

DR. CAMERON, in reply, said that he had never seen the old gentleman before. He had never had occasion to consult a physician since coming to this country, forty years before. He had been troubled with flatulency and a good deal of intestinal distress and constipation, but he was unable to say whether he had eaten any canned goods or anything likely to lead to ptomaine poisoning. As to the quality of the heart beat, he was unable to give very definite information as it was impossible to follow it. The diaphragm represented the pulse. He seemed to have a soft mitral murmur at first, but this disappeared after his recovery. With regard to the transition state, perhaps the idea of its rapidity had been somewhat exaggerated. It took about two seconds or so. The patient had been observed for about two hours on the first occasion, and one and a-half hours on the second occasion, and the notes presented were made at the time.