

Case Reports.

AORTIC DISEASE WITH ANOMALOUS SIGNS DUE TO ABERRANT CHORDÆ TENDINEÆ.

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The patient whose disease is about to be reported, first came under my notice in the Out-patient Department of the Royal Victoria Hospital early in the winter of 1896. He was a well-developed labourer of forty years of age. He complained of pain in the chest, which first began to trouble him after an attack of acute rheumatism in 1893. During the three years since that illness he had felt thoracic pain only occasionally, but in July of 1896 it became more severe and frequent, extending widely from beneath the sternum to the right and left and through to the back. Dizziness was sometimes felt. He was admitted to the ward on December 14th, 1896.

In his past history the following points are to be noted. He had done much heavy work. In 1880 he had a chancre, or, at least, the available history concerning an infection at that time, would lead one to conclude it was a chancre. In 1892 he was treated for a right-sided popliteal aneurism by Dr. Shepherd (the femoral artery was ligated). In 1893 he suffered, as already noted, an attack of acute rheumatism, and about eighteen months before seeking advice, at the Royal Victoria Hospital, he sustained a severe strain in wheeling a heavily loaded wheelbarrow. It will be seen that sufficient cause for disease of the circulatory system will be found in the history.

His condition when first examined was that of a well-nourished man in a state of comparative comfort and well-being, with the complaints as above described. The skin showed signs of smallpox many years before. There was slight pallor of the mucous membranes; the sclerotics were icteroid. There was no œdema or dyspnoea; the finger nails showed slight clubbing; the inguinal glands were enlarged. There was a scar on the glans penis near the corona. The right thigh showed the cicatrix of a surgical wound made for the treatment of the popliteal aneurism, already mentioned. The lungs, nervous system, abdomen, and urine gave negative results on examination. The chief interest centred about the circulatory system. The arteries were slightly