

muscular fibres from one another. From the eighth to the tenth day many of these fibres present a notable degree of atrophy (in some, simple atrophy; in others, degenerative atrophy); the fibres devoid of nuclei are much more numerous than in previous days, and the special alterations above described, though met with, are more scarce.

In the more advanced epochs (eighteenth to thirtieth day), many fibres have disappeared and are substituted by fascicles of connective tissue, rich in young connective cells. Correspondent to this, the cardiac muscle in the more altered tracts appears consistent (?) and of a whitish color.

The general conclusion which may be drawn from the above mentioned alterations is, that the fibres of the vagus not only have a functional value, but also that they exercise over the heart a trophic influence. The author having afterwards made the same experiments on the sympathetic and the depressor, found that the bilateral section of the sympathetic does not give alterations in the heart, whilst section of the depressor gave the alterations, which have been described for section of the pneumogastric, but less pronounced.

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[Perhaps the most important results of the physiological investigation of the heart during the last half dozen years may be summarized as follows:—

1. Clearer and more extensive knowledge of the innervation of the heart.
2. Truer conceptions of the causation of the heart-beat.
3. Broader views of cardiac rhythm.
4. New light on the relation of the cardiac nerves to the nutrition of the organ.

While the investigations of Eichhorst and Zander had led us to more than suspect the truth in regard to the importance of the nerves to the nutrition of the heart, it was desirable that the whole subject should be put in a position in which extraneous factors might be without hesitation excluded. While I believe that, as the result of my own investigations on cardiac physiology, I have been the gainer in all the directions indicated above, and while I think these results flow from the