

In 1840 Schier performed paracentesis in pericarditis due to cancer. The patient lived for six months after. The first case of tapping the pericardium in the United States was in 1852 by Dr. Warren, of Boston, and the first authentic case of incision and drainage in purulent pericarditis is reported in the *Berliner Klin. Wochenschrift*, 1881, 5th No. The patient was a boy, ten years of age, by paracentesis several ounces of pus were removed; later, incision and drainage led to recovery.

The operation of pericardiectomy was first performed in England by Dr. Samuel West in 1883. The case recovered. He refers to 79 cases with 36 recoveries. In 1885 Michaeloff operated, the patient dying a short time after the operation.

Gussenbauer, in the same year, had a successful case; after incision, drainage and irrigation, the ribs were revealed.

Davidson reports two cases in the *British Medical Journal*, March, 1891; two boys aged seven and six were treated this way, one recovering.

Beckman and Stall report a successful case; Bronner, one which terminated fatally. Scott, in the *New Zealand Medical Journal*, July, 1891, reports a successful case where irrigation with 15 to 1,000 carbolic was part of the treatment.

Edwards, in the *International Medical Magazine*, June, 1896, operated on a child six years of age, purulent pleuritic effusion and death followed.

Eiselberg, of Utrecht, reports a case of traumatic purulent pericarditis. Three tappings failed to give permanent relief. They occurred at intervals of a few days, and one litre was removed each time. The fourth costal cartilage was removed a few days after, and two litres of sero-purulent fluid containing fibrinous clots were noted. He irrigated the borders of the pericardium, which were stitched to the outer wound, to prevent infection of pleura. He injected iodoform and glycerine emulsion daily. Tube was removed in 17 days, and, 4 weeks after, the wound had completely cicatrized.

William Pepper, J. H. Mussen and John B. Deaver, of Philadelphia, in the *University Medical Magazine* for Feb., 1894, mention a case in a man, following influenza, where, paracentesis and the incision and drainage were performed.