

for the growth of organisms. This transudation is not a gross anatomical one, for it disappears in a few hours, and is unaccompanied by signs of inflammation. To decide if this œdema was due to a local action on the vascular walls or was only secondarily due to its action on the heart, ether was injected into a tracheal opening; now while the capillaries are dilated yet only a slight transudate is present again after twenty minutes narcosis a rabbit died of heart paralysis, here the lungs were normal saving a few dilated capillaries. Against the view that it is exclusively a local action, is the fact that often the œdema only

comes on when the person is awake when most of the local action is over. Arloing showed that the blood pressure under ether fell, but especially so in the right ventricle; beside this, as Wood and Carter, have proved, there is an action on the vaso motor centre leading to vascular dilatation, so that the heart would be compelled to beat quicker to maintain its pressure. Insufficient heart-action would lead to cyanosis and œdema, which last would be intensified by the local action of the ether; again, the number of blood corpuscles is often increased (Thomas and Lerber), which would speak for an inspissation of the blood.

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