

THE  
MARITIME MEDICAL NEWS,  
A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

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VOL. VIII.

HALIFAX, N. S., MARCH, 1896.

No. 3.

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Original Communications.

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THE THERAPEUTICS OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM.

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Read before the Maritime Medical Association.

The pathological changes common to the circulatory system are various in their origin and situation, but in their general systemic effects they may for convenience of treatment, be grouped under two conditions: 1st, venous plethora from arterial anæmia: 2nd, venous anæmia from arterial plethora and spasm. The word anæmia in each case is taken to denote diminished quantity and flow of blood. Of these two conditions—conditions which are often obvious at a glance—the first is nearly always found where the heart is primarily affected, the second where the circulatory system is affected secondarily. Venous plethora with arterial anæmia is to be expected in any disease of the cardiac valves or arterial tree which hinders the onward flow of blood. We will consider it first of all in mitral regurgitation. Here there is no impediment at the aortic valves to prevent the arterial system from getting its normal share of blood. The arterial anæmia is caused by the fact that the blood is partially diverted from the arteries, into the veous system through the left auricle. The pulmonary veins are first engorged. The capillaries of the lungs are over distended, the