

The respirations seemed to be but slightly altered, the respiratory movements continued, with only a slight alteration in their force, while the heart was not beating.

Thus, every few seconds, there would be a rapid transition from a state of life, with normal colour, complete consciousness and mental activity, and regular pulse (chart II.), to a state of apparent death, with death-like pallor of the face, absolute unconsciousness, loss of superficial reflexes, and stoppage of the action of the heart (chart I). The change from apparent death to life was preceded by convulsions.

For four hours this extraordinary irregularity of the heart's action, with the associated symptoms, kept up, and terminated just as suddenly as it had commenced. The complete cycle of events occurred, at first, on the average three times a minute, but later on became less frequent. The treatment given was large doses of spr. ætheris co. by the mouth and strychnine, gr. 1-60, hypodermically every two hours. During the subsequent 36 hours the patient had only two very slight attacks, but on August 20th, the arrhythmia commenced again, and lasted with great severity for two hours and a half. His limbs then became very cold, the intervals of rest and consciousness were much shorter, the heart's action was becoming weaker, and the man was apparently dying. Doctor A. A. Browne saw the patient in consultation, and was much interested as the man's condition was unique in his experience.

The cessation of symptoms ceased, however, as suddenly as on the former occasion, and the patient rapidly regained warmth and vitality.

On the 21st there were no attacks, the pulse being full and regular. During the night, however, he was very restless, and a few convulsions occurred. He suffered from much abdominal distention and flatulency, which was greatly relieved by a mustard emetic. For the following three days he had slight attacks from time to time, on two occasions the fact of my entering the room seemed to precipitate rather severe attacks though he had been free from them for several hours before. From the 25th to the 31st he was entirely free from attacks, and gained strength gradually, his diet having been very much increased. On the latter date, he partook of rather a heavy meal, including some pastry, and during the following night had several severe attacks, but these proved to be the last ones, for with careful attention to diet and exercise he completely regained his former vigour, and returned to his office on the 14th of October.

The treatment consisted in morphia  $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. hypodermically morning and evening: tr. nucis vomicæ, m xx, t.i.d.; and spr. ætheris co, whenever the attacks came on. The diet was restricted to liquids and the bowels kept loose by salines.