

Dr. Osler kindly examined the diseased heart muscle. Microscopical examination of the portion involving the septum near the apex showed it to be made up of ordinary connective tissue fibres, arranged in wavy bundles, with very few corpuscles or fibre cells. In the greater part of the area no trace of muscle substance is found, but at the margins the new growth is seen penetrating between the muscle fibres, some of which are completely cut off and isolated. The endocardium over the spot is thickened. Many of the muscle fibres in contiguous parts presented brown granules and fatty molecules.

There are several points of interest in this case, upon some of which I will offer a few remarks.

The opinion formed of the nature of the case when it first came under my observation was weakness of the heart—probably from fatty degeneration—an opinion based upon the following combination of clinical facts:—Weak impulse and sounds of the heart, without evidences of decided dilatation of the ventricles; occurrence for the first time eight years previously of symptoms like those of angina while walking up a slight incline, and ever after a sense of dyspnoea when walking; recurrence of similar symptoms of angina two years after the first seizure, and under like circumstances; sudden attacks of severe orthopnoea, terminating in expectoration of frothy mucus, yet not due to spasmodic asthma, nor to marked valvular or aortic disease, nor to dilatation of the heart; and a peculiarly sallow complexion and anxious and sad expression of countenance. It is true there was a faint systolic murmur in the mitral area, but the other accompaniments and sequences of valvular disease of at least eight years' standing (which there must have been to account for the features of the case) were wanting, and there was no history of an attack of acute rheumatism. The probability, then, was largely in favor of the existence of fatty degeneration of the heart, for the symptoms and signs which obtained are amongst the most reliable and constant of those met with in that affection. However, I am of opinion that the diagnosis of fatty degeneration of the heart just named cannot itself be pronounced with the scientific certi-