

heart. Gaskell investigated, in addition, that of the land tortoise of England (*Testudo Græca*). McWilliam, of University College, London, has studied the heart of the eel. My own work embraces the land tortoise of America (*Pyxis*), the terrapin (living in brackish water mostly), the sea turtle, the fish, and the alligator. Of the four papers, the fruit of this work, one (terrapin) has already appeared in the *Journal of Physiology*, of Cambridge, England, and the others will probably be shortly published in that journal.

The editors of this JOURNAL, apparently sharing my views as to the scope and aims of physiology, have requested me to publish, in some form, an account of this work. This must necessarily be brief, and inasmuch as physicians are more interested in the results than the methods of investigation, in most instances the latter will not be discussed. In general terms, it may be said that the direct method of observation has been employed, and the heart has been studied *in situ*, normal conditions, as far as possible, being preserved. In the case of the fish, the heart was also studied isolated. Gaskell's and Ransom's work was done on the isolated heart in each case.

What follows may be considered as a very brief synopsis of my paper (40 pp.) on the terrapin, published in Nos. 4 and 5, Vol. VI, of the *Journal of Physiology*. Before proceeding to my own investigations proper, it may be well to remind readers that the heart of all the turtle tribe (*Chelonians*) consists of a sinus venosus, two auricles, and one ventricle. The woodcut gives at once a view of these parts and also of the vessels springing from the heart.