

and to a less degree than where the vessels are under tension. Boveri claims to have abolished the effects of adrenalin on the blood vessels by combining it with "Iodipin," though he was not able to prevent the toxic effect on the muscle cells.

The effect of adrenalin chloride inoculated directly into the skeletal muscle depends upon the strength of the dose given. When the undiluted 1 in 1,000 solution of adrenalin chloride is inoculated into the muscle tissue the cells are killed outright, so that the nuclei and cell membrane disappear. Weaker solutions produce a fatty degeneration of the muscle cells. It was found also that the animals receiving the adrenalin treatment over an extended time developed fatty degeneration of the heart. So we can but conclude that adrenalin has a selective action on muscle tissue, and that its toxic effect thereon is the primary cause of the arterial lesions. The same holds true for barium chloride and digitalin. The three substances are thus similar in their effects, differing only in the intensity of their reaction.

The influence of high pressure in producing arterial change is well brought out in these experiments. We have noted that the most frequent site and the most severe changes occur in the thoracic aorta, and that the vessels in the remote parts of the body are only affected when advanced lesions are present there. We must admit that the inoculated substances are distributed equally to all parts of the body, and that from toxæmia alone all vessels of similar structure should suffer equally. But the normal amount of work done, besides the increased strain that is produced by raising the blood pressure, is felt most severely in the aorta, mainly in the thoracic portion. As a result of this combined degeneration and high pressure, the thoracic aorta exhibits a fusiform aneurysm, extending from its origin to where it passes behind the diaphragm. From this localization of the diffuse aneurysm to the thoracic aorta, it is evident that the aorta opening in the diaphragm acts as a flood-gate in letting through only given quantity of fluid. By this mechanical device the abdominal aorta is relieved of having an increased volume of blood thrown into it by the overworked heart, and thus is not subjected to the double degenerative forces of toxæmia and high blood pressure, as is the thoracic portion. Focal degenerative lesions are nevertheless found in the abdominal aorta.

The important role that the muscle fibres of the media play in the strength of the arterial wall is well known. In fact, it is pointed out that they are the mainstay of the vessel. This fact is exemplified in these experiments, where it is found that with the primary degeneration in the muscle cells the vessel wall begins to give way in this region. The