

about ten minutes. Artificial respiration was gone on with for half an hour, but without avail. The post mortem was done by Dr. Maybee and the pathological entity known as the status lymphaticus or status thymacus found.

Dr. Maybee's report is as follows:—

Although we know a good deal of the mechanism of death under anæsthesia, the influence of the general condition of the patient on the course of anæsthesia is still rather obscure. Nearly three centuries ago Plater called attention to the fact that the thymus gland was enlarged in certain cases of sudden death. Later, in 1723 Bichat made the same observation, and Kopp, in 1829, associated enlarged thymus with laryngo-spasm. The credit, however, for having directed the investigation into the right path in many of these unexplained cases of sudden death is due to Paltauf. Paltauf in 1889 and 1890 collected a large number of sudden deaths in adults in which post mortem examinations had shown similar conditions. There was found an enlargement of the tonsils, of the lymphatic gland system, of the follicles at the base of the tongue, of the spleen, and lastly, an enlarged thymus gland; and in many cases also there was a narrowing of the aorta. This combination of conditions he called the "lymphatico-chlorotic constitution," and referred the sudden deaths of certain patients of this type to cardiac paralysis and acute heart dilatation, putting aside a theory advanced as to the possibility of mechanical interference by pressure of the enlarged thymus on the circulatory and respiratory organs. His first case was that of a girl, aged 9, who sat up in bed and died suddenly. He also speaks of sudden deaths during bathing, and Recklinghausen and Nordman recorded cases of young people who died suddenly during or after a cold bath and in whom, post mortem, status lymphaticus was found. Pott is recorded as having seen death occur in eight children who suffered from spasm of the glottis after introduction of a tongue spatula and was convinced that they did not die from suffocation but from cardiac paralysis, for artificial respiration after the attack was useless. Kundrat published in 1895, ten cases of death under or immediately after anæsthesia by chloroform, or a mixture containing it, collected from post mortem records in Vienna, all showing a lymphatic diathesis and one case in which ether was the anæsthetic. He pointed out that in some of his cases danger symptoms began with the heart, respiration lasting some time after cessation of the pulse. Kundrat noted also the association of status lymphaticus with Basedow's Disease. He also mentioned other cases of death during anæsthesia in which many of the characteristics of the status lymphaticus were found but no enlargement of thymus. To the writings of Paltauf and Kundrat little of importance can be added to-day except that many sudden deaths of children have been recorded