

knowledge of the gross pathology of the condition. Virchow's work is especially important, because it included a careful study, both microscopic and chemic, of the changes in parenchymatous myocarditis. This was the beginning of an era of more definite and accurate work, which has since been continued and elaborated by a host of investigators in all parts of the world. Thus, from the pathological side, diseases of the myocardium have been very carefully worked out, with a completeness of classification, a definiteness of description, and an appreciation of importance, which stands in marked contrast to the dearth of information that has been obtained from the clinical side. The pathologists have shown the etiological relationship of many other conditions to myocardial disease, but the clinician has too seldom borne this relationship in mind. In fact in probably no other important class of diseases is there such a disparity between the well established facts of the pathologist and the practical application of this knowledge by the clinician, whether it be in the management of these diseases or in teaching students their frequency, importance and means of recognition.

This is not due to failure, from the academic standpoint to appreciate the essential importance of the cardiac muscle and the serious phenomena which must ensue when this tissue becomes weakened by disease. No one will deny that it is on the cardiac *muscle* that the function of the organ depends—that the valves and orifices act only in a mechanical and subsidiary way in *directing* the current which has its *origin* in the muscular contraction. Valvular lesions at most interfere with the distribution of energy; myocardial disease interferes with its *origin*.

Considering therefore the relative importance of the tissues involved, it seems remarkable that in Allbutt's excellent System of Medicine four times as much space is devoted to pericardial lesions and nearly eight times as much to endocardial as to myocardial, and this is only a fair example of what may generally be found in text books of Medicine and special treatises on Heart Diseases.