

allows regurgitation to take place, precisely under those conditions mentioned by Dr. Howard.

In speaking of enlarged jugular veins as being a sign of a dilated right cavity, if he had said, that the fact had been established by Lancisi, and corroborated by *nearly* every writer from his time, "and by myself," instead of saying, "as established by Dr. Blakiston, and corroborated by myself," it would have been more strictly correct. I have said *nearly* every writer, for there have been some distinguished dissidents. Corvisart, for instance, rejected it, because "it has been noticed in patients in whom the left cavities have been found to be dilated, and because the pulsation may be confounded with that of the carotids." His illustrious pupil, Laennec, however, speaks decidedly in favour of it:—"An habitual distension of the external jugular veins without sensible pulsations, has appeared to me the most constant and characteristic equivocal sign of dilatation of the right cavities of the heart."

There was an adherent pericardium which was not diagnosed.

It has not been my object, in these few remarks, to find fault with Dr. Howard for not making a perfect diagnosis. I am too conscious of our present imperfect knowledge of the various morbid conditions of the heart, and their declaratory signs and symptoms, to expect anything of the kind. What I object to is, the confidence with which he tells the student, that he has "had an opportunity of observing some of the difficulties that are frequently encountered at the bed-side, in ascertaining the exact pathological conditions existing in affections of the heart, and, at the same time, of witnessing how many of those difficulties may be overcome, and how *large* an amount of *positive and accurate* information may be obtained by the application of our present knowledge of cardiac diagnosis, when assisted and corrected by successive examinations," when the case would serve as an excellent illustration of failure in diagnosis, notwithstanding patient and repeated investigation.

If I might, in concluding, venture to give a hint to Dr. Howard, I would say, "carefully eschew for the future *elaborateness* in drawing up cases for the benefit of the student, and adopt, as much as possible, a plain and simple language, and let every statement be concise and rigidly correct."