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Clinical Lecture.

MITRAL STENOSIS—SUDDEN DEATH—BALL THROMBUS IN THE LEFT AURICLE.

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Sudden death in mitral stenosis is very much less frequent than in aortic valve disease, and the cause which carried off the little girl of whose case I shall speak to-day is among the rarest of the complications of chronic valve lesions. I will ask Mr. Day, the Clinical Clerk in Ward G., to first read an abstract of the history.

"Mabel M., aged 20, was admitted Dec. 15th, complaining of swelling of the legs and shortness of breath. She knows nothing of her family history.

Personal history. She had diphtheria and scarlet fever when nine years of age. She had a discharge from the ears when she was about thirteen, and ever since has had "catarrh of the head," as she calls it. She began to menstruate at her thirteenth year. She was always well and strong, but for a year or more she had been short of breath on exertion. For the past two years she had been employed in a book-bindingery, where part of her occupation was working a machine with her feet.

Present illness. About two months ago, while wearing a pair of tight shoes, she noticed a swelling beginning at the shoe tops. This gradually ascended to her hips. Then the back began to ache, and there was slight swelling in the lower part of the spine. On close inquiry she confesses that she has been for a long time short of breath on any such exertion as climbing the stairs or walking fast, and she has sometimes felt faint. The dyspnoea has been growing worse for the past few months, and in walking a square she would have to stop and rest. Lately she has had headache, and on waking in the morning the eyes are puffy. She has had loss of appetite and the bowels are irregular.

Present condition. Patient does not look more than fourteen or fifteen years of age. She is well nourished, has a rather high colour, the cheeks are red, and the lips a little cyanotic. The facies is distinctly luetic—saddle nose, projecting forehead. There is cloudiness