

In insufficiency of the semi-lunar valves of the aorta there is a long-drawn loud-blowing diastolic murmur, which is heard loudest at the upper part of the sternum, or even at its left border.

Other forms of valvular disease are comparatively rare, and need scarcely be considered in a paper such as this.

While auscultation is by far the most important means of physical diagnosis, inspection, palpitation and percussion are also of importance. To utilize these methods of diagnosis it will be necessary to be fully conversant with the size, dimensions and position of the normal heart. The heart as a whole extends vertically from the second intercostal space to the sixth costal cartilage, and transversely from about half an inch to the right of the sternum to within half an inch from the left nipple. Posteriorly the base lies opposite the sixth and seventh dorsal vertebræ.

The whole of the anterior surface of the heart is overlapped by the lungs except a triangular space corresponding to the lower portion of the right ventricle.

By *inspection* you note any changes in the heart's impulse where it strikes the walls of the chest.

By *palpitation* you can determine the force of the cardiac pulsation; the frequency or slowness of the heart's action and its regularity or irregularity, and also, if present, the "purring tremor" or purring thrill, a peculiar sensation felt by pressing the hand over the heart.

By *percussion* we determine the exact outline of the heart itself, and note any increase of size or position, and thus show any hypertrophy or displacement. It is best performed by applying the palmar surface of the left index or middle finger to the chest wall and striking with one or more of the fingers of the left hand. By this means the dullness, flatness or resonance, etc., of the organ percussed is noted.

THE STUDY OF ANATOMY.*

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This association has wrought a great work in securing the adoption of something like uniformity of action in the admission of students, and in the raising of the general educational standard. If one would have some comprehension of its beneficent influence, he has but to reflect upon what was the general character of American schools, and what their reputation abroad before the

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