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Selections: Medicine.

THROMBOSIS OF ONE OF THE CORONARY ARTERIES OF THE HEART DIAGNOSED DURING LIFE.

BY DR. A. HAMMER, St. Louis.

Translated from *Gazetta Medica Italiana* by JOSEPH WORKMAN, M.D., Toronto.

All the pathological alterations which are met with in the entire arterial system, as endocarditis, atheroma, aneurisms and stenoses, calcifications, ossifications, thromboses, whether arising spontaneously or from embolisms, with invariably consecutive formation of infarctions, abscesses, &c., &c., have been already often observed in necrosopies of the heart. Not, however, during life, has there yet been diagnosed or described a thrombosis of one or both of the coronary arteries.

As, then, I have made this diagnosis, I may venture to treat of the subject as an original fact, since I have never yet read of it or even heard it spoken of. Having, however, had doubts whether the affection was a newly discovered malady, I re-examined all the books within my reach in which diseases of the heart are treated of. In none did I find any description of such an affection. I consulted all the more recent periodic literature of medicine, so far as available, but without meeting with anything relating to the subject. I might therefore, without self-dissatisfaction, have ventured to publish the present case as one really new, but a certain disinclination to write (commonly called laziness) restrained me; and then again sprang up afresh the doubt that already similar cases might have been published,

so that I might be found in the rather unpleasant situation of augmenting the number of those illusionists who have believed that they have discovered new things, which were, nevertheless, already well known.

Because of the great interest with which I regarded the case, I made mention of it in the German Medical Society of New York, prior to my departure thence, in the spring of 1877. This intimation was quite unfruitful, and even the most-learned Dr. Jacobi, who might well be called a walking dictionary of medicine, knew nothing of the disease. On my arrival on this continent I conferred with various illustrious clinics, among whom were Kussmaul of Strasbourg and Bamberger of Vienna: none of them could afford me the information sought for. They all said they never had observed, nor ever had read of, a similar case. For these reasons, as well as because many of those to whom I had mentioned the case urged me to keep it no longer unpublished, I have written the following details:—

On the 4th of May, 1876, at nine in the morning, my young friend and colleague, Dr. Wichman, came to ask me to visit with him a patient on whose condition, he said, he was unable to come to any decision. Of the course and character of the disease he gave me the following relation:—

The patient, Jacob Schreier, a merchant, aged 34, married, of robust constitution, habitually a free beer-drinker, had suffered for a year past repeated attacks of articular rheumatism; no alterations in the valves of the heart could ever be detected. Four weeks ago he had an acute return, which invaded simul-