

Progress of Science.

HEART FAILURE.

Prof. Alfred L. Loomis, M.D., LL.D., read recently before the American Climatological Association a paper on Heart Failure.

He includes all heart failure in three classes :

1. Those in which the heart has for a long time been called upon to perform an abnormal amount of work, as in valvular or arterial disease.

2. Those in which obstructive changes in the coronary vessels markedly diminish the nutritive supply of the cardiac muscle.

3. Those in which toxic influences act directly upon the nutrition of the cardiac muscle, or so interfere with the cardiac nerve supply as to lessen cardiac resistance.

He concludes with this excellent advice, in his summary of his conclusions, as to the lessons taught by the facts demonstrated. He says :

"However we may explain it, clinical observation teaches that some chronic and many acute infections so diminish heart power that sudden heart-failure occurs in hearts that previous to this infection were of normal integrity. It then becomes of the utmost importance, in all toxic conditions, to watch for the first indications of cardiac weakness. On this principle Stokes based his great rule for the use of alcoholic stimulants in the treatment of typhoid fever, when he directed, 'that in every case of fever, if the first sound of the heart became indistinct, stimulants should immediately be given in sufficient quantities to restore the heart tone.' It is on this principle, also, that strychnia upholds an alcoholic heart in pneumonia, by restoring or increasing its nerve supply. A rule which for a long time has governed me in all toxic conditions is, not to wait for signs of commencing heart-failure, but to begin the administration of alcohol, strychnia, and other heart tonics early, and thus, if possible, save my patients from fatal heart-failure.

"A review of the cases which I have presented makes it evident that the term heart-failure is misleading and should be abandoned, for, in most instances, it does not express the pathological state. It is equally evident that the term death by heart-failure is often used to cover the ignorance of the medical attendants."—*Med. Age*.

SUGAR IN URINE.

Sugar in the urine is no more a proof of diabetes than albumen is of Bright's disease, and it is a great mistake to base the diagnosis upon

the one point alone. The presence of the sugar may be due to transient nervous conditions, to temporarily defective action of the liver, to excess of sugar in the diet, as when a new clerk goes into a candy-shop, or to a disturbance of the general system like that caused by the retention of the milk in women who have suddenly stopped nursing. Gout, syphilis, hereditary and renal disease may also cause glycosuria without diabetes. Ord, of London, says that while he has not frequently met with carbuncle or phthisis in glycosuria, they are common in true diabetes.—*Northwestern Lancet*.

THE TREATMENT OF TYPHOID FEVER IN A NUTSHELL.

M. O. Terry, M.D., of Utica, in the N. Y. *Med. Times* says :

1. Keep temperature down to about 100° by sponging as often as every two hours, night and day, if necessary.

2. Fumigate with sulphur or Spencer's pastiles every six hours. Evaporate oil of eucalyptol, using 30 drops to a pint of water, allowing it to slowly impregnate the air night and day.

3. Teeth and mouth should be cleansed and freed from all impurities with listerine and water (oz. $\frac{1}{2}$ to a glass) and the tongue scrubbed several times a day.

4. A compress should be kept constantly over the abdomen in the region of Peyer's glands.

5. Remove the cause if possible and discontinue the water if suspicion gives you any grounds for so doing.

6. Internally give the following: sodii sulphas oz., $\frac{1}{2}$; syr. aurantii cort. oz., 4. Sig., one teaspoonful in water three times a day. Other remedies, such as sulpho-carbolate of soda, gels., bapt., listerine, in connection with or interchanging. The remedies given should be antiseptic and those for special symptoms as they occur.

7. Diet : Milk with salt or peptonized, oatmeal or cracked wheat strained, orange juice, cocoa or broma. Later on in the case, eggs if bowels are not loose, mutton broth and rice. I never give beef tea in these fevers. Whisky and egg with milk in crisis or during convalescence.

8. If necessary to quiet I would prefer chloroform water: chloroform gtt. 30; aquae oz., 6. Sig. From a dessertspoonful to a tablespoonful, repeating when necessary. This is not only quieting but antiseptic and an antigermicide. Sulfonal may act well in 5 to 10 grain doses, repeating every hour for three hours if necessary.