

in its mild form, not so uncommon during rheumatic fever and rheumatoid affections.

The term acute nodose periarteritis has been well selected to describe the pathological picture of the cases coming to autopsy. It must be remembered, however, that where recovery takes place and the lesion is examined at a later period the nodose lesion is a fibrous one devoid of all evidence of acute inflammation. The process is one essentially affecting the small arteries, more particularly of the kidney, stomach, mesentery, liver, and heart, occasionally of skin, thyroid, lung, brain, and spleen. The aorta and its main branches show no involvement, in as far as a naked eye recognition of inflammation and degeneration is concerned. Clinically the symptoms vary so greatly that no characteristic picture can be drawn. The most characteristic features are the presence of rheumatoid pains in the muscles and joints, occasional sore throat, some temperature, indefinite colicky pains of the abdomen, leucocytosis and an albuminuria. At times this clinical picture is overshadowed by the presence of cardiac lesions, endocardial, myocardial, or pericardial. For a review of the reported cases up to 1914, I would refer the reader to an excellent article by Lamb. Prior to this, two thorough analyses of the clinical and pathological findings were made by Dickson and Longcope (1908). These previous studies have well outlined the pathological findings, showing a remarkable similarity in the reports based upon the observations of different authors. It might be said that the description of the lesions as found in man has been completely detailed and requires little further addition. It is, however, equally patent that the different attitude of the various observers has led them to place varying importance upon factors and processes so that the final interpretations and conclusions are not in thorough agreement. The part played by syphilis is still debated, while the question of the localization of the initial insult, whether in intima, media, or adventitia, has also led to considerable polemic. More important than these, and yet having received meager attention, is the question why particular