

found the murmur to be the *bruit de soufflet*, the *bruit de scie*, or the filing or rasping bruit, which is generally ascribed to roughness of the orifices or valves, and which is due to the deposition and organization of the normal products of inflammation. The regurgitant murmurs are produced by an irregular contraction or spasm, or undue relation of the fleshy columns, thereby either drawing the *chordæ tendineæ* and attached valves short of the auriculo-ventricular foramen, or allowing the valve to be driven through into the auricle at each ventricular systole; and in either case producing a murmur. This is especially true of the *columnæ papillares*, which are free in their middle, being attached merely by one extremity to the ventricular parietes, and by the other to the *chordæ tendineæ*; and hence must be capable of contraction and relaxation independently of the ventricles.

The *prognosis*, under proper treatment, is singularly favourable. Indeed, I know of no circumstances under which the physician is better rewarded in gratitude and reputation than right here, in affording prompt relief by the exercise of a very little care in the proper direction of his treatment. In those cases that have been overlooked for years, it will require weeks and months often to restore to perfect health, not only the spine but those organs and structures secondarily lashed into semi-organic disease. After having been apparently relieved the spinal tenderness is liable to recur again and again, but in the end a healthy condition will be restored. I have seen cases that I had every reason to believe had existed for *ten* years, and have often met with the disease of from *two to five* years' duration; and I have seen the heart appreciably enlarged from long-continued overaction, valvular regurgitation and distention, and the like; also passive congestion of the lungs and other organs, return to their normal condition under treatment directed almost wholly to the spine. According to my experience in the disease, and it has not been small, there is no disposition in the spinal congestion, or whatever it may be, either to right itself or go on to permanent organic change or disorganization of the tissues; and this peculiarity of behaviour, I think, almost

stamps it as a disease *sui generis*, just as tetanus is or hydrophobia is. Notwithstanding the fact that I have seen the most rational constitutional treatment resorted to for months, and anodynes and antispasmodics for the organic manifestations, yet so long as the real seat of the trouble was unattended to, the patient was liable to a recurrence of the symptoms again and again. I have no doubt but that a continuance of the spinal irritation is capable of producing organic changes in the structures implicated which are beyond repair, and that disorganization of the cord at the seat of the pressure may ensue, and as a result many cases have proved fatal; but such a termination I have never seen.

The *treatment* is sufficiently simple and rational. A course of counter irritation to the spine is of the first importance, and in many cases is all that is required. A succession of small blisters, or pustulation with croton oil, in some cases it may be necessary to apply a cup and take an ounce or two of blood, and in very persistent cases a seton might be advisable; but I have always succeeded with blisters and croton oil. Where the tenderness extends for several inches, I apply a long, narrow strip of blister, and repeat again and again, if necessary.

In those cases in which the general health is below the normal standard, and the patients are pale, nervous, weak, lethargic, indisposed to exercise, with cold extremities, and disposed to local congestions, and have a weak and irritable heart, and are threatened with syncope, or do actually faint on rising up suddenly,—in such cases a course of general and special tonics and alteratives must be used in addition to the counter irritation, without which even these would be powerless to effect a cure. Of these tonics I have found iron, nux vomica, phosphorus and digitalis, variously combined, to be the most efficacious. In those cases in which there is manifested a weak and irregular heart, with a bellows murmur and some hypertrophy, together with coldness of the extremities and a disposition to syncope, I have seen a pill containing two grains of the pyrophosphate of iron and half a grain each of ext. nux vomica and pulv. digitalis, three times a day, seem to work wonders almost. Of course, suitable exercise must be insisted on in those persons who have been in the habit of sitting and *lounging* a great deal, and a change of occupation is necessary in some cases, and suitable clothing and diet in all cases.—*American Practitioner*.