

CRATÆGUS IN HEART DISEASE.

By A. H. GORDON, M. D.

Case 1.—Mrs. H., age thirty, became ill December, 1896, and was attended by her regular family physician, who is a competent homœopathic practitioner. A diagnosis of enlargement of the heart was made, and the case was carefully treated by homœopathic medicines for a period of six weeks. At the end of that time, there having been no improvement, but rather an increase in the distressing symptoms, at the advice of friends she consulted a prominent allopathic physician. She was treated at home for several months by this physician with no change for the better; but, on the contrary, she became so incapacitated by her affliction that she was unable to move about the house at all without bringing on attacks of faintness and symptoms of complete collapse. At the time, in accordance with the advice of her physician, she was removed to St. Joseph's Hospital, this city, where she remained ten weeks in bed, under his constant attention, with the hope that the much vaunted "rest cure" would relieve her, for her condition was now so alarming that her friends had given up all hope of her recovery.

At the end of the ten weeks, there being no improvement, her husband took her home. At that time she was unable to walk across the floor without the symptoms of heart failure appearing. After a course of treatment by electricity with the usual result—no improvement—I was sent for, having been recommended by one of the students of my class, who was a friend of the family. An examination of the heart determined the presence of hypertrophy, with dilatation, displacement of apex beat, weak action, heart sounds prolonged, but no valvular lesions. Further physical examination disclosed an irregular and intermittent pulse, general anasarca, etc.; the least exertion caused dyspnoea, faintness and symptoms of collapse. No special cause for the heart trouble could be given by her, except many years of overwork and abuse of coffee.

After listening to her account of the several courses of treatment she had received, I came to the conclusion that it was wise to try a new remedy in her

case, which I had been using with good results when the usually indicated remedies had failed to relieve. I therefore prescribed *Cratægus oxyacantha*, five drop doses of the tincture in water every three hours. The results were simply marvelous; in three weeks she was able to visit me at my office, about two miles from her home, walking to and from the car with very little assistance, and her improvement was continuous from the first. In about three months the dropsy had disappeared, the heart's action was strong and regular, with only an occasional intermittence, and to live had become again a pleasure to her.

About this time she became pregnant (she was already the mother of three children, all living and in good health), which naturally alarmed her greatly, as she had no idea it was possible for her to endure such a strain, as she well knew from past experience what was required, even in labor which was fairly normal, as hers had been. However, I did everything possible to get her into good condition before the time expired, and she passed safely through the crisis, with no further accident than a slight post-partum hemorrhage, which was easily controlled. She is now fairly well, as well, I think, as any one with an enlarged heart can expect to be. She does all her work in her own flat, for her family of five, and has gained greatly in weight and strength, although her nursing infant is only eight months old. In her case *Cratægus* seems to have made it possible for compensation to be restored with results as stated.

Case 2.—Mr. L., age thirty-eight, a foreman of stock room in large shoe factory, came to me for treatment for what had been called nervous prostration, in March, 1899. The history showed progressive loss of strength, indigestion, palpitation of heart, so severe as to interfere with rest at night; night sweats, profuse and exhausting, and intemperate use of liquor "to keep up on." He confessed to many forms of dissipation, late hours, the abuse of stimulants above referred to, excessive venery, etc. The rapid, irregular and intermittent pulse directed my attention to the condition of the heart, an examination of which disclosed hypertrophy, apex beat in sixth interspace to the left of nipple line, in-