

The disturbance of rate and rhythm of the heart are especially likely to occur in the subjects of osteo-arthritis. The subjects of influenza are often liable to such attacks as well as those whose history shows a sudden or severe strain of the emotional or nervous system. Dr. Sansom holds that in all these cases some alteration has occurred in the nervous mechanism of the cardiac reflex, and since there is not that relation between degree of disturbance and degree of dilatation which some have averred, it would appear that for the production of dilatation there must be some effect upon the trophic nervous mechanism, and not only upon that portion which regulates rate and rhythm.

In the treatment of these cases "the policy of coddling has given place to the policy of training" and there is no doubt that after all errors are eliminated, "massage, baths, exercises, and pleasant air cures, have done much good."

The medical treatment which best suits such dilated and hypertrophied hearts is not digitalis but alkaline bicarbonates with bromides, phenacetin, antipyrine, and in some cases hypodermic injections of morphine. Cod liver oil, some arterial relaxant, and careful dieting, often produce good results in those cases where arterio-sclerosis is the condition which is associated with forcible ventricular action, inadequate renal functions, urine of low specific gravity and albuminous.

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