

INTERMITTENT CLAUDICATION.

BY

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In 1877 or 1878, when studying comparative pathology, I went one day to the country with some of the members of the Montreal Veterinary College to see an autopsy on a horse which had had a peculiar form of intermittent lameness. Dr. McEachran said the condition was well recognized, and had been described by the French writers, but it was very obscure. I have forgotten now the details of the autopsy, except that we found verminous aneurisms of many of the mesenteric vessels and of the iliac arteries. At the time I was much interested, and looked up Bouley's paper on *Claudication Intermittente*. He described an affection in the horse, in which, after being driven for fifteen or twenty minutes, the animal stopped, one or both of the hind legs got stiff, and soon it was unable to stir. In from half an hour to an hour it recovered and was able to go on comfortably for another fifteen minutes, when the attack recurred. In such cases, post-mortem, the artery of the affected limb was found blocked with a clot, or, when both hind legs have been involved, the abdominal aorta contained thrombi.

The subject was not brought to my attention again until a few years ago, when working at the subject of angina pectoris. I then looked up Charcot's description of this intermittent claudication in man, and made also the interesting discovery that Allan Burns in his *Observations on Some of the Most Frequent and Important Diseases of the Heart, 1809*, had given an explanation of this remarkable phenomenon.