

systolic or maximum pressure scarcely concerns us here. It seems, then, that the hæmomanometer is a valuable adjunct to the physician; that its findings have been misinterpreted or rather misnamed, need not throw it out of court. The moral of Russell's additions to our knowledge on the subject is that a vessel which is incompressible indicates the need for treatment: that the incompressibility may be lessened, greatly in some arteries, slightly in others that are organically affected, but to the great advantage of the patient in all.

Not all cases that present early change in the arteries show a heightened blood pressure—and these symptoms referred to above may exist with a reading that is perfectly normal, but not ordinarily so. Should there be a combination of early arterial change and renal disease the blood pressure is almost certain to be raised; if renal, cardiac and arterial change coexist one may declare that the raised blood pressure is a certainty. Yet, on the contrary, diseases such as diabetes and leucæmia have been known to possess a normal or low blood pressure when coexisting with arterial change. The whole question becomes reduced to this—there are certain individuals with early arterial change whose radials or temporals may be but slightly or not palpable, with unimportant cerebral symptoms such as occasional headache or vertigo who on routine examination by the manometer show a heightened “compressibility” (called “blood-pressure”). In the majority of cases this sign is to be depended on, although its absence does not negative the existence of arterial change. Because it is easy of application, its routine use should be adopted.

Having had suspicion aroused by a high blood-pressure reading, it is necessary to search carefully for casts, and, of course, for albumen. The finding of one or the other strengthens the position greatly. A good deal of controversy has existed upon definitions of arteriosclerosis in its various phases, but it is generally agreed that when the radial, brachial, temporal or femoral artery is palpably thickened, it is a symptom worthy of note. Some consider that a thickened artery is a rigid artery, but Russell points out that an organically thickened