

of acute rheumatism. During the course of the attack, after he had been ill some three or four months, he became suddenly paralysed in the right side of the body. He was aware, previously to this attack, that the heart had been affected by the rheumatism.

You know that in the course of acute rheumatism, in a large proportion of cases, probably in as many as fifty per cent., the morbid process attacks the valves of the heart, being particular in nearly every instance to select the mitral valve. Rheumatism is the usual cause of endocarditis, and in that disease certain changes take place in the valve. The smooth, glistening surface becomes vascular and roughened by an exudation leading to a deposit of fibrin. The process may be likened to the freezing of a river; the ice tends to form upon rough projections, shallow bays, rocks, in fact anything that presents an obstacle to the rapid current, while in deep places, up against smooth embankments and wharves ice does not so readily form. The fibrin of the blood is not only always ready to deposit itself upon a rough surface, but in acute rheumatism it is put into a condition in which coagulation is especially prone to occur. A deposit of fibrin, then, having taken place, a piece of it becomes detached, enters the circulation, and is carried from the big arteries to the little arteries, until it finally sticks in one of them, usually a cerebral artery. This is by no means an uncommon occurrence. Disease of the valves of the left side of the heart is most frequently the starting-point of this embolism. Here paralysis of the opposite side was the result. The vessel in which the clot is arrested is almost always one of the Sylvian arteries. It was formerly commonly taught that the left artery was more liable to plugging than that on the right, but this, it appears, is not the case, or at least it has not been confirmed by Fagge's observations in the post-mortem records of Guy's Hospital. Among twenty-one cases of embolism limited to the Sylvian artery of one side, he found that there were eleven in which the left one was affected and ten in which the clot entered the right artery.

The immediate result of plugging of the Sylvian artery, if that, indeed, was what occurred, was to shut off the blood from those parts of the brain in which the motor fibres of the right side of