

the cups may be applied singly and in succession, thus affording ample means for contrast.

In cases of disordered heart, in which it is desired to discover whether the sounds of the two sides of the heart are synchronous, the stethophone affords the most satisfactory mode of investigating the fact. With it, we virtually place our two ears over the two sides of the heart; and if one side sounds at all after the other, the fact is made known, and the end of one sound and the beginning of the other are clearly and distinctly defined. With the ordinary stethoscope this is impossible; for where one sound is heard the other may be inaudible, and long before the head or stethoscope can be adjusted at another part, the second sound has taken place, and is long since over.

In conclusion, I may perhaps be permitted to say, that the differential stethophone proves a great auxiliary in examining the heart with the cardioscope or sphygmoscope, which I had the honour to exhibit to this society two years ago. While the latter instrument exhibits the movements of the heart, the stethophone informs us of their sounds, in a more complete manner than can be otherwise effected; and from the stethophone permitting of auscultating two parts at once, and with the eyes directed by the chest, the relation of the movements and of the sounds, normal or abnormal, of this most important organ is very fully and satisfactorily made out.

POSTSCRIPT. Received April, 22 1858. In connection with that part of my paper which treats of the restriction of hearing to the closed ear, I desire to add the fact which I have ascertained within the last few days, that if one ear be closed wholly or partially at its external part i. e. at the meatus externus, by disease or by congenital malformation, while the other ear is healthy, the sound of the tuning-fork, applied to any part of the head, is heard only in the closed ear. This fact holds, although the closed ear is totally unaffected by sounds conveyed through the external air.

I have further to mention the fact, that all persons deaf in one ear, whom I have lately examined, with one exception, hear the sound of the tuning-fork applied to the head in that ear only that is deaf to external sounds. A man who has been totally deaf in one ear for thirty years, in consequence of a violent blow upon the head, had the tuning-fork applied over the forehead. He started, and said that he heard only in the ear which had been deaf during that long course of time. In such cases I have been disposed to believe that, amidst other lesions of the organ of hearing, there may be present an obstruction or closure, that a reverberation takes place, and that thus a restriction of hearing is secured for the diseased organ."

PLACE D'ARMES,

Quebec, 10th July, 1860.