

and unequal, become easily excited and fluttering, if at the same time the patient feel steady præcordial uneasiness, *softening*, of the non-fatty variety, is extremely probable.

XIII. If the same symptoms mentioned in the foregoing rule be observed in a *bon-vivant* of luxurious and idle habits, especially if he be at the same time an intemperate drinker, *fatty degeneration* of the heart is almost indubitable. If to these symptoms be added epileptiform seizures, and if the respiration varies greatly in uniformity as to frequency and force without any external cause, and at the same time the patient be over forty years old, *fatty degeneration* may be considered certain.

XIV. *Angina pectoris* cannot be mistaken if the suffocation, præcordial pain, the dread of imminent death, have once occurred, so as to be described by the patient in these or similar terms, without having been questioned by the physician. The symptoms pertain, in their clearness and pertinence, to no other affection.

XV. A *murmur* coincident with the first sound heard at the base and propagated up the aorta, in an anemic person, whose blood under the microscope exhibits defect of red or excess of white globules, is an inorganic *murmur*, and indicates merely altered condition of the blood, or altered dynamism of the heart.

#### PRINCIPLES OF TREATMENT.

I. The first and most important principle to be kept in view in treating a diseased heart, is, *to diminish the labour it has to perform*.

II. This is done in two ways. Directly, by diminishing the amount of blood in the body; by *diminishing* the functional activity of all the organs not concerned in secretion, and by *increasing* the functional activity of the skin, liver, kidneys, lungs and alimentary canal.

III. Blood may be abstracted directly, either from the arm by venesection, or from the præcordia by cups, when from general plethora or overwhelming local congestion, a sudden diversion to the blood-current is deemed essential; or the total quantity of blood in the system may be diminished by reducing the weight of the body—the loss of eight pounds of weight is the loss of one pound of blood. Blood never is to be taken with a view of cutting short an inflammation, or *curing* either an acute or chronic affection, but merely for the purpose of relieving an urgent symptom, or arresting an imminent catastrophe. On the other hand, bleeding is not so hazardous as many would wish us to believe. If the digestive organs are unimpaired, loss of blood by hemorrhage is restored with astonishing rapidity. In this respect, anemia from traumatic hemorrhage or venesection is widely different from pathological anemia, depending on lesions of nutrition, assimilation and innervation; in short, on lesions of