

Selected Articles.

MYOCARDIAL DISEASE FROM THE CLINICAL STANDPOINT.*

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Rokitansky studied both acute and chronic inflammations of the myocardium, recognized their relationship to cardiac dilatation and rupture, and did much to advance our knowledge of the gross pathology of the condition. Virchow's work is especially important, because it included a careful study, both microscopic and chemic, of the changes in parenchymatous myocarditis. Thus, from the pathological side, diseases of the myocardium have been very carefully worked out, with a completeness of classification, a definiteness of description, and an appreciation of importance, which stands in marked contrast to the dearth of information that has been obtained from the clinical side. The pathologists have shown the etiological relationship of many other conditions to myocardial disease, but the clinician has too seldom borne this relationship in mind. In fact in probably no other important class of diseases is there such a disparity between the well established facts of the pathologist and the practical application of this knowledge by the clinician, whether it be in the management of these diseases or in teaching students their frequency, importance and means of recognition.

Considering therefore the relative importance of the tissues involved, it seems remarkable that in Allbutt's excellent System of Medicine four times as much space is devoted to pericardial lesions and nearly eight times as much to endocardial as to myocardial, and this is only a fair example of what may generally be found in text books of Medicine and special treatises on Heart Diseases.

Myocardial lesions are not only more important from the nature of the tissue involved, but also on account of their greater frequency. In this connection, it must not be forgotten that the coincident condition of the cardiac muscle is a factor of equal, if not greater, importance than the valvular

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