

doubtful murmurs and those in the pulmonary and tricuspid areas were rigidly excluded from the list. Insurance physicians will read these papers with interest and profit; and his conclusions should have widespread publicity, and, it is to be hoped, will lead to more correct views on the significance of cardiac murmurs. The following conditions, Sir Andrew holds, would justify a physician in permitting a patient, say, for example, with mitral regurgitation, to marry, to continue at his ordinary work, or to pass for life insurance: Good general health; just habits of living; no special liability to catarrhal or rheumatic affections; the origin of the valve lesion independently of degeneration; the existence of the valve lesion without change for three years; sound ventricles of regular action; sound arteries, free course of blood through the cervical veins, and freedom from pulmonary, hepatic and renal congestion. Here is comfort, indeed, for the poor victims of the stringent life insurance rules, which compel the rejection of every applicant with a heart murmur. The truth is, that the stethoscope in the hands of an imperfectly trained man is a most dangerous instrument, leading to all sorts of false conclusions. I fully believe that in the examination of any heart case a more correct judgment can be made by taking into account the general condition of the circulation and the evidence obtained by palpation and percussion than by relying exclusively on the auscultatory phenomena, as is so often done.

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There is a lively row at Washington between Secretary Endicott and Surgeon-General Moore. On the retirement of Dr. Murray, a few months ago, Dr. Baxter was a prominent candidate for the position of Surgeon-General, and had the active support of the Secretary of War, Mr. Endicott. It is said that the President sent for Dr. Huntingdon, who is on duty at the Army Medical Museum, and on his representations Dr. Moore was appointed, although only fourth or fifth on the army list, in order of seniority. Shortly after this the Secretary of War relieved Dr. Huntingdon from duty at the Army Museum and detailed him to Los Angeles, appointing in his place a Dr. Greenleaf, who is stated to have been an earnest advocate of Dr. Baxter's claims. Surgeon-General Moore has protested against the carrying out of this order, as Dr. Huntingdon, from his long experience, has become almost indispensable in the work of the Museum. He has appealed to the President, whose decision the profession await with a good deal of anxiety. The feeling is very strong here that Dr. Huntingdon should not be removed, and those who know the good work which he has done in the Museum, and have experienced his kindness on their visits to it,