

apex. The walls of the right ventricle were everywhere thin, at the place of rupture not thicker than blotting paper, soft, and tore easily; the walls of the left ventricle were thicker than normal. The valves were healthy, and there was no evidence of malignant endocarditis. Dr. McK. thought the diseased condition was due to some obstruction in the coronary artery supplying the parts affected.

*Poisoning by Ptomaines.*—The PRESIDENT reported having recently been called to two cases, man and wife, suffering from symptoms of violent irritant poisoning—pain, vomiting, purging and collapse. Both, however, subsequently recovered. The treatment was morphia and stimulants. They had both eaten freely of head-cheese about an hour before symptoms manifested themselves.

The members of the Society present supposed that the symptoms were due to the development of poisonous alkaloids in the head-cheese. Dr. McKeough was subsequently called to two cases in which symptoms very similar developed after partaking of head-cheese obtained from the same source as the President's cases.

*Cerebritis—Abscess of Brain.*—DR. HALL briefly related the history of a post-mortem held to-day, in which softening of the entire brain, with an abscess in the occipital lobe of the right hemisphere, was found. The patient, a man aged 60, was ill only a few weeks. Symptoms, when first seen, were mental dullness, embarrassment of speech, and uncertainty of gait, with a subnormal temperature. Symptoms of general paralysis, more marked in the lower extremities, soon supervened, and finally somnolency, coma and death closed the scene.

*Chronic Constipation.*—DR. BACKUS read a paper upon this subject. In relating the numerous causes of chronic constipation, he headed the list with carelessness and neglect. A hurried and imperfect performance of the act of defæcation, necessitating an incomplete emptying of the lower bowel, is mischievous. Change of residence, of occupation, of diet, or an attack of some severe illness, may be the origin of the disease. Deficient secretion from the mucous membrane of the large intestine, or an excessive drain upon the fluids of the body, as in diabetes, render the fæces hard and less easily moved by the peristaltic action of the bowels. Anæmia and other enfeebled conditions of the system frequently give rise to constipation, etc. The result of continued constipation is often pernicious—the blood is burdened with effete material, mental depression, melancholia, dyspeptic