mia, the capillaries of the body are fairly replete, but in ordinary mortals, especially in those of neurotic temperament, perhaps not a third of the capillaries are full at any one moment. Apply a sinapism to a very pallid skin, and you may wonder where all the turgid capillaries have sprung from. From the fact that under normal circumstances a sufficient quantity of blood cannot get through the arterioles to keep the enormous capillary bed full, the lateral pressure and the velocity in the capillaries are ever-varying quantities. The higher the potential in the arteries the greater the velocity in the capillaries, but as ths arterial potential is induced by obstruction to the outflow, the velocity in the arteries will be diminished. As Leonard Hill appropriately says: "The circulation of the blood follows certain definite laws; unfortunately, the conditions of the flow are so complicated that these laws remain for the most part undetermined. A viscous fluid driven by an intermittent pump which circulates through a system of branching elastic tubes of varying capacity; a system of tubes into and out of which passage of fluid takes place either by osmosis, filtration, or secretion; a fluid which varies in viscosity, a pump which varies in force, and tubes which have an ever-changing diameter and co-efficient of elasticity."

In a paper on tubal nephritis published in 1883, and in one on the pathology and treatment of dropsy in 1886 I dealt with the capillary circulation. I have long been in the habit of estimating the velocity by compressing the blood out of the capillaries in a given area and then watching the quickness or velocity of the return. This has served, and still serves, my purpose, but when I wish to record my observations I use a glass rod 10 millimetres in diameter. With the flat end of this rod I compress the capillaries, and then with a stop watch recording fifths of a second I time the period of the return of the blood. If you divide the radius of this rod (5 millimetres) by the time, you get the velocity per second. For these observations you must select some spot where there is a network of capillaries which you can completely empty, such as those in the back of the hand or finger, and you must also choose a spot where the return current flows from all parts of the circumference.

The study of the lateral pressure and velocity of the blood in the capillaries is an exceedingly interesting one. A combination of these two forces represents the energy of the blood in the capillaries, and no doubt this energy is derived from the heart, and stands in direct relationship to the force of the cardiac contraction: the greater the force of the cardiac output the greater will be the energy in the capillaries, but the component elements of this energy—lateral pressure and velocity—need not bear any