RETROSPECT

OF

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Medicine.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF JAMES STEWART.

Cardiac Hypertrophy in Arterio Sclerosis.

DR. ARTHUR HASENFELD. "Ueber die Herzhypertrophe bei Arterio Sclerose."—*Deutsches Archiv. für Klinische Medicin*, December 9th, 1897.

Dr. Hasenfeld's observations on this subject have been summarized in the following conclusions :

1. In a physiological degree one finds in the splenic, the mesenteric and in the hepatic arteries a slight increase of fibrous tissue in the intima.

2. Arteriosclerosis of the abdominal (splanchnic) vessels is very slight,—only on microscopical examination at all frequent. Marked or advanced sclerotic degeneration, on the contrary, is much rarer than in the aorta, the vessels of the extremities and of the brain.

3. The sclerotic changes are generally most advanced in the main trunk of the abdominal aorta, and decrease in the branches.

4. Arteriosclerosis leads to an hypertrophy of the left ventricle only when the abdominal system or the aorta above the diaphragm is much involved. The changes in the other vessels do not seem to exert this influence.

5. In the cases of contracted kidney examined, the whole heart segment was found hypertrophied. If at the same time the splanchnic vessels were highly sclerotic, the hypertrophy of the left ventricle predominated. The same result may be seen in extreme sclerosis of the aorta. Should the diseased kidney be found without or even with a slight degeneration of the splanchnic vessels, the whole heart would be uniformily hypertrophied.

6. Should further investigation verify the uniform hypertrophy of the whole heart segment, it would appear that the contracted kidney increased the work of both sides of the heart, and probably also the heart's activity.