

Painful Sensations in Heart Disease.—

Professor Nothnagel discusses this subject in a short paper, containing in a tabulated form the results of his investigations as recorded in his hospital case-books. He says that it is not uncommon to meet with patients complaining of painful and various unpleasant sensations in the region of the heart. If the thoracic organs are found healthy, these symptoms are usually locked upon as due to dry pleurisy, rheumatism, or intercostal neuralgia. Increased experience suggests the question, however, Why, if such is their nature, should these affections be limited to the left side, and not localized in the right half of the chest and back as well? A close relationship to the heart is indeed indicated. In some patients, markedly neurotic, subjective sensations are referred to the region of the heart, when this organ is perfectly normal. Professor Nothnagel tabulates 483 cases of valvular disease observed in six years. Here the frequency of cardiac pain differs very much with the valve affected. In disease of the aortic orifice it is much more frequent than in mitral affections, being met with most often in aortic regurgitation with stenosis of the same valve, most seldom in insufficiency of the mitral. Thus, in aortic insufficiency, painful sensations were recorded in 68 per cent. out of a total of 114 cases; in insufficiency and stenosis of the same valve in 68 per cent. On the other hand, only $7\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. of a total of 183 with regurgitation at the mitral valve had these sensations. It is interesting to observe that a combination of aortic and mitral leakage produced the symptoms in only 18 per cent. This result confirms those of other authors who have generally limited themselves to recording the so-called steno-cardial (anginose) attacks with pain usually radiating down the left arm. These statistics include, besides, less definite painful disturbances. Most authors mention the steno-cardial attack only in aortic disease, and Germain Sée states they are limited to this form of valve affection. This Nothnagel confirms generally; but he gives a case, on account of the rarity of such attacks, where the lesion was a pronounced stenosis of the mitral orifice. Other forms of painful sensation complained of are sticking,