

The second chapter takes up the question of sphygmomanometry and sphygmomameters. This is a subject on which information is at present much needed, because some form of sphygmomanometer is an essential for every physician. The author gives a good account of the several makes on the market. The graphic methods and instruments in the diagnosis of cardiac affections come in for careful study. The various forms of traceys, such as jugular, carotid, apex, radial, are clearly distinguished, and the value of these instruments in clinical work accentuated. The author gives a good description of the use of the electrocardiograph, the spring recorder, and the electric time marker.

A chapter is devoted to cardiac arrhythmias. To many this seems a difficult subject, and, consequently, it does not receive the attention it merits. Dr. Satterthwaite has performed a good service in clearing up this branch of clinical cardiology. One of the most interesting portions of the book is that on cardiac arrhythmias. He directs attention to the fact that the use of instruments to record the pulse and heart beats have materially recast our views within the past ten years. It is stated that arrhythmias may be classified with reference to the five physiological attributes of the heart muscle, namely, rhythmicity, irritability, contractility, conductivity, and tonicity.

In speaking of heart block, the author states that a diagnosis can be made without the graphic method. There is heart-block caused by drugs. Partial heart-block where the auricular stimulus does not always reach the ventricle. Complete heart-block where the auricle and ventricle act independently. The Adams'-stokes syndrome, where the loss of conductivity is associated with syncope attacks. In auricular fibrillation digitalis is advocated as the most useful remedy, as it reduces the frequency of the ventricular systole. When heart-block is due to digitalis, the drug must at once be given over for a time.

The Nanheim bath treatment is discussed. There are some interesting remarks on the mobility and malposition of the heart, and on cardiovascular thromboses. Very interesting and lucid chapter follows in myocardial disease. The myocardial changes caused by parenchymatous myocarditis, diffuse myocarditis, chronic myocarditis, fatty heart, hypertrophies, and atrophies. These various forms are discussed at length.

The book closes with a few pages on malignant endocarditis. Attention is paid to the origin, nature, infection, prognosis and treatment of this very serious heart affection. The author favors the expectant plan of treatment. We have had much pleasure in reviewing this book. Its teachings are sound, well stated, on some of the most important of all the cardiac diseases. The make-up of the book is very superior.