

ANEURISM OF THE ASCENDING AORTA WITH
EROSION OF THE RIBS.*

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(From the Melson Pathological Laboratory, McGill College.)

G. B., æt. 56, was for many years foreman on some dredging operations, and occasionally acted as diver. Previously, at the age of twenty-one, he had malarial fever, and at twenty-five an attack of acute rheumatism. Since then he has had several acute attacks and constant chronic rheumatism. He comes of a healthy long-lived family, and has healthy children of his own.

During the summer of 1892 he suffered from anorexia and insomnia, and on the first of November he suddenly felt a sharp pain in the right mammary region, "like shoving in a red hot iron and drawing it out again."

The pain was paroxysmal and severe for five days, then the attacks occurred about every third or second day.

On Jan. 1, 1893, he noticed for the first time a small tumour in the right mammary region which, from time to time, would swell up and "lift"; the skin over it would become red and tender and then the paroxysms of pain began at the tumour, back, right shoulder and arm. After three or four hours the ribs seemed to "lift" and the pain would cease.

Upon examination at the Montreal General Hospital under Dr. Wilkins, a prominent pulsating tumour was found projecting forwards about 5 cm., and covered by reddened, œdematous skin. The most prominent part was firm but above, the tumour was soft and compressible.

The ribs were not felt under the tumour. Dulness extended slightly beyond its outline.

Pulsation was synchronous with the heart beat, a sharp systolic rise followed by a quick fall; a slight systolic blow after the first sound was heard over the swelling, while the second sound is heard distinctly.

Tracheal tugging could be obtained.

The apex beat was at the fifth left interspace and almost imperceptible. The sounds were normal, the aortic slightly

* Shown before the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society, Jan. 12th, 1894.