

admitting easily the handle of the scalpel or the little finger. The aorta was then opened, and the section continued down into the ventricle. Its coats here and there were marked with yellow spots; the corpuscula Morgagni and two of the semilunar valves were red and increased in size. The parietes of the left ventricle were thinner than usual, and the cavity much larger than natural. Passing the finger into what appeared the opening between this ventricle and the left auricle, it passed by a large opening into the right auricle; and it was then found that there was no communication between the right auricle and left ventricle. The right ventricle was much less than natural. The pulmonary artery, of its natural size, passed from its upper end; the blood had found ingress into this ventricle from the left ventricle through an opening with tendinous margins, just below the semilunar valves of the aorta. Its size about half an inch by three-fourths of an inch. The praeternatural orifice between the right auricle and left ventricle was large, and furnished with valves similar to the tricuspid. Part of these were thickened and of a cartilaginous hardness. At the base of one of the divisions, there was a tumour of the size of a bean, containing a thickish yellow matter. The left auricle was partly concealed by the columnæ carneæ, and their tendinous terminations affixed to the valves just mentioned, and was a little enlarged but natural, as were the veins flowing into it.

The course of the circulation in this curious case must have been as follows:—The blood entering the right auricle by the two cavæ, passed almost entirely into the left ventricle, a small portion probably finding its way into the left auricle. A part of the blood would pass during the diastole of the ventricles from the left into the right ventricle, and be propelled through the lungs, to be returned into the left auricle. The blood itself would constantly remain in a state very little oxygenated, as the portion returning from the lungs would be mixed with the returned venous part, before being propelled into the aorta.

The accompanying sketch (Plate 1) may serve to explain the appearances:—

- (a) The pericardium held up by pins.
- (b) Part of internal surface of aorta with orifice of one of the coronary arteries.
- (c) The left auricle.
- (d) The left ventricle, crossed by a probe placed under the columnæ carneæ and cordæ tendineæ.
- (e) A part of the right ventricle, with the sides separated by a piece of whalebone.