

## CHAPTER XV

### DEATH

141. DURING the earlier years of life and up to the period of adolescence, the body increases in size and weight. The processes of growth are in excess of those of waste. After adolescence, the body may remain for many years without much variation in bulk and weight ; but even before middle life signs of decay and degeneration are noticeable, especially in certain organs. Grey hairs appear, the teeth decay, there may be a diminution in the elasticity of parts and in the power of the muscles, and there may be slow changes in some of the internal organs that are still compatible with ordinary health. In advanced life these changes become more apparent. Some have supposed that such changes may be due to the action of poisonous substances, formed mainly in the alimentary canal, and even the