

# THE MARITIME MEDICAL NEWS

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## WORLD OF MEDICINE.

### Arterio- Sclerosis.

In a paper dealing with the Premonitory Signs of Arteriosclerosis, appearing in a recent issue of the *Canada Lancet*. A. J. MacKenzie says that the initial manifestations of this disease are shown as varying according to the region upon which the impact happens to fall—kidney, brain, heart, liver, etc. The tendency is notably influenced by heredity, although acquired by certain habits of life.

We may have early migraine, epistaxis, baldness, etc. Constitutional symptoms comprise diminished mentality, energy for work and power of concentration. Tendency to fatigue is shown by drawn features and physical depression. Small amounts of alcohol and tobacco render the patient morbidly irritative. Irritability of temper is common. Headaches are frequent. Sensory disturbances in one form or another are fairly common, such as neuralgia, tingling, slight paresis of the limbs with or without pain. Genuine insomnia is rare, though sleep is disturbed.

A simple way of determining general arteriosclerosis is the estimation of the stability of the pulse. Under normal conditions the pulse is eight or ten per minute higher in the erect than in the recumbent position, and when observation shows that such is not the case it may be inferred that the blood pressure is markedly above normal, while if the ratio be reverse it may be taken as proved that not only

is the arterial pressure unduly high, but the arteriosclerosis has reached the stage of giving rise to definite organic disease, an assumption which is confirmed should it be found that the heart apex is displaced to the left.

Exaggerated arterial tension with a small hard thready, but regular pulse, is a recognized sign of arteriosclerosis, but in minor degrees it also constitutes an early premonitory sign; indeed, some weighty authorities believe that actual changes in the arterial walls are preceded by prolonged exposure to the ill-effects of persistent high pressure what Huchard calls the pre-sclerosis period, such hypertension being due to the spasmodic contraction of the arterioles probably dependent on toxic irritation of the vaso motor system.

High arterial is commonly associated with renal disease, but we must not forget that this very mischief may be due to arteriosclerosis; indeed the renal lesion may be, and often is, due to local arteriosclerosis. When in addition to an abnormally high blood pressure some of the other signs just mentioned are observed, there is a strong presumption in favor of the existence of arteriosclerosis.

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### Ectopic Gestation.

A paper entitled, "The Recognition and Treatment of Ectopic Gestation," by Channing W. Barrett, appears in the *Medical Record* for Janu-