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THE RATE OF PROPAGATION OF THE VENOUS PULSE.¹

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This research was undertaken at the suggestion of Prof. Karl Hürthle, of Breslau, to determine the rate at which the venous pulse travels. Before I began my experiments Prof. Hürthle had satisfied himself that a venous pulse could frequently be observed in the veins of the neck and extremities of normal dogs.

He had also devised very sensitive apparatus for recording the same (Hürthle's venous manometers). Tracings of the pulse in the veins of the extremities of normal dogs, taken with this apparatus, are shown in Figures 1 and 2. Other investigators had also observed the venous pulse in the extremities of normal animals, and still others (2 and 3) had studied it in normal and pathological human subjects, but no one had undertaken to measure the rate at which it travelled. It seemed probable that this would be found different from that of the arterial pulse, on

¹ This research was reported in German in Pflüger's Archives for March.