

(difficulty of breathing,) and violent palpitation. At this stage of the disease, the signs by auscultation were unequivocal. The systole motion (contraction of the heart) was violent and confused. The apex rested on the diaphragm, producing strong pulsation in the epigastrium. The endocardial murmur imperfect and confused. The tricuspid and mitral valves continued to perform their functions. The aortic valves did not prevent the return of the blood at each diastole motion, (dilatation of the heart.) This condition caused great pulmonary congestion, and in the latter part of his illness, frequent attacks of hæmoptysis, (spitting of blood,) attended with a distressed, hacking cough, great oppression at the præcordia, (front part of the chest,) and laborious respiration. The extremities were œdematous, and not much emaciation of the body generally. He was sitting up, conversing with his friends as usual, when in a moment he was lifeless, without a struggle.

*Autopsical appearances.*—Enormous hypertrophy (increase of size,) and dilatation of the heart. Its length was eight and a half inches, and its width five and a quarter inches. Its cavities would hold, when distended, one quart of fluid: the apex rested on the diaphragm: extensive adhesions of the pericardium. The ascending, transverse, and descending portions of the arch of the aorta were ossified, and enlarged to two inches in diameter. The aortic valves were not ossified, but were much too small to prevent rapid regurgitation at every diastole motion. The whole structure of the heart exhibited signs of inflammation and organic lesion. Lungs greatly congested.

*Prophylactic (or preventive) Treatment.*—Avoid excesses of every description, particularly indulgence in the use of alcoholic stimuli, and great mental emotions,—also violent physical exercise,—as they all tend to overtax the power of the heart, and endanger distention, enlargement, organic lesion and inflammation. Avoid sedentary habits, and high seasoned and stimulating diet. Plain, simple diet, cheerful exercises and innocent amusements, are proper. Direct the mind from dwelling on the disease. Give all suitable encouragement.

*Therapeutic Treatment.*—Remove any acute disease, such as rheumatism, pleuritis, fever, &c., by proper treatment. Any suppressed secretion or evacuation should be promoted by mild means. Bathing, friction, quietude and anodynes to reduce excitement.

*Buffalo, October 28, 1850.*