

(MONTREAL MEDICAL JOURNAL, Vol. xviii., p. 296), mention is made of the case of a French-Canadian farmer, 60 years of age, who presented the physical signs of a large heart, and whose breathing was of the Cheyne-Stokes character. There was a history of rheumatism in recurring attacks, but no evidence whatever of valvular disease. The apex beat was one inch outside the nipple line, but there was no enlargement to the right of the middle line of the chest clearly made out during life. The heart's action was weak, diffuse and laboured, and the sounds distant. Pulsation was visible but not forcible in the external jugulars. The exact duration of the whole cycle, 1 minute 40 seconds; respirations, 44; period of dyspnoea, 40 seconds; period of apnoea, 40 seconds. No sphygmographic tracings could be obtained. At the end the symptoms seemed to undergo some improvement under treatment (tincture of digitalis, 20 minims, every four hours), but on the 19th day of his stay in hospital he dropped dead in crossing the ward (against orders). There were no evidences whatever of renal disease.

The autopsy, which was made by Dr. Finley, showed that the heart was greatly enlarged, with its left border lying an inch and a half outside the mammary line, and it weighed three and a half times the normal weight; the walls of both ventricles were somewhat thickened and firm, and the cavities were much dilated, the right containing loosely adherent ante-mortem clots; the tricuspid orifice was dilated to almost double its natural size, whilst the mitral was normal; the aortic valves, though slightly atheromatous, were perfectly competent, and the coronary arteries were healthy: the lungs were somewhat oedematous, but there was no pleurisy; the liver was of the nutmeg kind, and the kidneys had undergone cyanotic induration; there was hyperæmia of the stomach with eight or ten hæmorrhagic erosions, and oedema of the upper part of the small intestine. Microscopic examination showed that the muscular fibres of the heart were healthy, and that there was no material increase of connective tissue.

The sequence of events appears to have been hypertrophy of