

viverra, a *situs inversus* existing. In these cases the apex which points to the right is formed by the ventricle that normally lies on the left side, namely, that receiving blood from the left (pulmonic auricle). So also the chambers here occupying the left side of the heart are those lying normally on the right and receiving blood from the venae cavae. This condition cannot be regarded as pathological and is the result, not of an arrest of development, but probably of the inversion of the embryo in its relation to the primitive yoke sack.

*Type B.* In this, the other form of congenital dextrocardia, the heart is not reversed upon itself, but is simply placed more or less in the right side of the thorax, and its apex points to the right and is formed by the right, that is the caval ventricle. The auricles maintain their normal relation, that on the right side receiving the venae cavae, and that on the left side receiving the blood from the pulmonary veins, which passes into the ventricle lying on the left side of the heart, and giving off the aorta. These cases are plainly due to arrest of development in the early embryonic stage, in which the heart lies chiefly on the right side, and the apex is formed of the right side of the common ventricle, which at that time preponderates over the left. They are practically always associated with marked cardiac defects, such as absence or defect of the septa, transposition of the arterial trunks, pulmonary hypoplasia, etc., a fact which gives additional proof of their origin in an arrest of development. These conditions are pathological and place the subjects of this type of dextrocardia in the class of those suffering from congenital cardiac disease.

The differentiation of these two types is excellently brought out in a set of diagrams by Nagel in his article on this subject, which are reproduced in Figures 1 to 5. We have added in

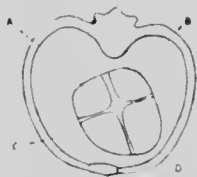


FIG. 1. NORMAL HEART. A, CAVAL AURICLE; B, PULMONARY VEINS AURICLE; C, RIGHT VENTRICLE (CAVAL BLOOD VENTRICLE); D, LEFT VENTRICLE (PULMONARY BLOOD VENTRICLE).

Fig. 1. *Diagram of Normal Heart.* The apex points to the left, and is formed by the left (pulmonic blood) ventricle.