

THE TRANSFUSION OF DEFIBRINATED BLOOD.

In a most interesting brochure lately published on this subject, Dr. De Belina strongly advocates the extension of the operation of transfusion, describes an ingenious apparatus for performing it, and a number of interesting experiments he has made on the subject. He insists on the superiority of defibrinated blood, and refers to numerous experiments of Panum and Brown-Sequard, as well as his own, to prove that the fibrine is by no means essential or even serviceable in the operation.

By its removal, the risk of injecting minute coagula is greatly lessened, and the operation can be performed leisurely and without the fuss and flurry which must of necessity accompany other methods of operating. The red corpuscles saturated with oxygen are the important agents in the injected blood, and the agitation of the blood in defibrinating is in itself of value in increasing the oxygenation. Dr. Belina cites in support of his view some most brilliant and interesting cases, in which he performed transfusion with astonishing results. One of these was in a patient at the point of death from puerperal eclampsia; another was in a new-born and apparently asphyxiated child, who revived after the injection of the mother's defibrinated blood, expelled with the placenta, injected into the umbilical vein.

EMBOLISM IN ENDOCARDITIS.

The following statistics have been compiled (*Edinburgh Medical Journal*, July, 1873) from the records of the Pathological Institute in Berlin. They are the results of necropsical examinations in 300 cases of endocarditis that were observed between the years 1868 and 1871. The lesions were confined to the valves in nearly every instance; disease of the parietal endocardium occurred only once. The affection was limited to the right side in 1 per cent. of the cases; in 9 per cent. it was associated with similar trouble on the left side. In 10 per cent. the left valves were the only ones diseased, but in 39 per cent. the right valves were also affected. The following facts were also ascertained. The tricuspid was diseased alone in 1 per cent. of the cases, and with others in 10 per cent. The pulmonary was not diseased alone, but with other valves. The mitral was alone affected in 52 per cent., with others in 85 per cent.; the aorta alone in 13 per cent., with others in 43 per cent.; 29 per cent. of all the cases were complicated with embola. In 2 or 3 per cent. of these the trouble originated in the right side of the heart, and produced infarctions and abscesses in the lungs, chiefly in the lower lobes. In 20 per cent. the embola were derived from the aortic circulation. In the seventy-six cases of this nature, the mitral was affected in 87 per cent., and the aorta in 48 per cent. The following is the ratio of relative frequency with which embola occur in three different organs: in the kidneys, in 75 per cent.; in the spleen, in 51 per cent.; in the brain, in 20 per cent.; in the intestinal tract and in the liver, in 7 per cent.; in the skin, in 5 per cent.; in the medulla, in 3 per cent.; and less often in the thyroid gland and eye.

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TWENTIETH SESSION, 1873-74.

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TEACHING STAFF.

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