

tinct. We generally examine the heart while the individual is in the erect or recumbent position, and the more painstaking of us examine our patients by utilizing both postures. When a patient is on his back and there is any tendency to distension of the jugular veins, it will be evinced there and then. By lowering the head of the patient, while he is still on his back, the jugular veins become more distended, as a rule, and may begin to pulsate. Distension of the vein, or its pulsation, will increase in direct ratio to the lowering of the head, but when a certain point is reached, which is dependent upon individual factors, the pulsation diminishes more or less and the engorgement may also recede. This lowering of the head, which in reality is but an extension, a stretching of the muscles of the neck, the vein, etc., is reflected in the tricuspid area, where now murmurs are noticed that were not perceptible before, or which had been quite indistinct." As the posture produces an increase of the tricuspid incompetency, and may induce dyspnea, cyanosis, and pulsation of the liver, it is important that it be maintained only so long as it is absolutely necessary. For this reason the examiner "must be ready to proceed with the examination, stethoscope attached to the ears, and at the very moment the patient has assumed the posture. He should stand behind the patient, somewhat to the right of the head of the latter when an examining table is utilized. In case the examination is made in bed, the physician should be sitting at the right side of the head of the patient, who has been placed across the bed. In both cases the head of the patient should be supported by either the left hand of the examiner, or, in advanced cases, by both hands of an attendant. It should not be dropped at once over the edge of the examining table, or bed, but should be brought down very gradually and be immediately elevated as soon as the dyspnea and the venous engorgement become excessive."—*Medical Record*.

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CHINESE MEDICINE.—A correspondent has forwarded us the following description of Chinese medical treatment which was given originally by a Roman Catholic priest, Père Ripa, of what he underwent to prevent the ill-effects of a fall. Having been thrown from his horse and left fainting in the street, he was carried into a house where a doctor soon visited him. "He made me sit up in bed, placing near me a large basin filled with water, in which he put a thick piece of ice to reduce it to the freezing-point. Then stripping me to the waist, he made me stretch my neck over the basin, while he continued to pour the water on my