

has occurred to the writer that the heart may be pulled upwards and backwards to a slight extent by the aorta, thus allowing a portion of the lung to occupy its usual position. We are told by minute anatomists, that the small arteries are very contractile, and that the large ones are very elastic, but possesses little contractility. But it may happen, that the intense stimulation to which the aorta is thus supposed to be subjected, may cause it to contract the heart in the manner indicated. The heart, therefore, may be so contracted, and occupy such a much smaller space than normal, that a portion of the lung may get in front of it, and occasion the resonant sound heard on percussion.

However, whether this may be an approach to the truth or not, the fact may be tested repeatedly, that, in deep cholera collapse, the heart-sounds are not heard. There are, in addition, the cold skin, and no pulse, or very little, felt in the usual localities. Now this state might be brought about if the heart were in a state of diastole when there would be true syncope. But if this were the actual condition in cholera, it may be affirmed that alcohol would do good instead of harm; as it is universally admitted that, where there is real atony of the heart, alcoholic stimulants produce a temporary benefit. But if, as is supposed here, the heart be in a condition of almost continuous systole, not dilating sufficiently to allow much blood to enter its cavities from the gorged veins, and the arteries be so reduced in diameter as not to allow that little blood to flow properly through them, then the administration of alcohol would, it is presumed, do harm, which experience has shown to be the case. Hence, apparently, a state of pulselessness may be produced by two opposite conditions: in one of which, where there is syncope, stimulants do good; in the other, as cholera collapse, they do absolute harm.

Turning now from theory to practice, there are a few points which must be attended to by those who may use chloral subcutaneously in cholera. The strength of the solution employed may be laid down at one in ten; if it be stronger than this, it will probably cause great irritation, ulceration, or even sloughing (as it has done in some cases). Besides, if the