

the cardiac muscle, and produce the signs of fatigue and exhaustion which are so marked, especially when there has been a too early return to work. Valvular disease is less common, and probably is usually due to a "mixed infection" with other organisms, such as the streptococcus or pneumococcus; in such cases the onset of the endocarditis may be extremely insidious. Occasionally, however, the endocarditis is due solely to the influenza bacillus, which has been found by Austin in the vegetations. More often valvular disease is secondary to influenzal pericarditis, pleurisy, pneumonia, or to a concomitant attack of acute rheumatism. The cardiac muscle may be involved secondarily by purulent pericarditis of influenzal origin, and the inflammatory process may extend to the endocardium. Lenhartz found metastatic abscesses in the myocardium, which were secondary to influenzal pneumonia, complicated by pleurisy and endocarditis. The deleterious action of the influenza toxins is especially marked in hearts which were previously weak or diseased, and in obese subjects, although there may have been previously no sign of fatty degeneration of the heart or of arterio-sclerosis. Acute cardiac dilatation, with considerable fall of blood-pressure, may supervene during the acute stage, especially in those who have previously suffered from cardiac neuroses. With the exception of acute rheumatism, no disease damages the heart so much as influenza and the recent epidemics have largely increased the frequency of cardiac disease.—*Med. Rev.*

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#### THE USE OF OLIVE OIL IN ORGANIC AND SPASTIC STENOSIS OF THE PYLORUS AND DUODENUM.

Olive oil in large doses is highly recommended by Dr. Paul Cohnheim in organic and spastic stenosis of the pylorus and duodenum, and dilatation of the stomach consequent upon such stenosis. In his paper presented to the Thirteenth International Medical Congress, he reaches the following conclusions:

1. Cases of gastric dilatation not caused by an organic obstruction, but by a spasm of the pylorus in consequence of an ulcer or a fissure, are cured or greatly ameliorated in a short time by the daily administration of three to eight ounces of olive oil.

2. Even cases of pyloric or duodenal stenosis of a cicatricial nature, with resulting gastric dilatation, are relatively cured by large doses of the oil, systematically employed. Patients complain of no illness as long as they avoid all excesses in food and drink. In these cases the pain and resistance caused by the friction are relieved by the mechanical effect of the oil.

3. Those cases of relative stenosis of the pylorus and duodenum which are characterized by a continuous secretion, and by pyloric