diseases of the nervous system and may also be induced by severe abdominal pain, tympanites, or any form of profound shock. The tonic contraction of the arteries is often very striking, and of itself a kind of cold shock, and is typically present in some cases of tuberculous meningitis during the irritative stage. Sometimes, even in young children, the radial artery seems to feel a piece of whipcord, and I have always found the blood pressure extremely low. When a severe cold shock occurs, the blood pressure is most strongly diminished, the pulse is slow and "wiry", the pressure is also frequently abnormally low, and remedies which produce a relaxation of the vessels lead to a raising of the blood pressure. In such cases there is a general arteriole contraction, due either to direct irritation of the vaso-motor centre (meningitis, cerebral tumour, &c.), or indirectly produced by some disturbance of the abdominal sympathetic system. There is no unusual obtrusion in the capillaries. In some cases of marked arteriole contraction, where the lumina of the capillaries were greatly diminished, I have found the blood pressure exceedingly low, but there was no reason to suppose that the capillary area was unduly obstructed. Similarly in old syphilitic vessels with nearly obliterated lumina, the pressure registered was sometimes very low.

In conclusion the following points may be stated: (1) In cases of toxic hypertonus the arterial pressure is, as a rule, considerably raised; and this is mainly brought about by contraction of the capillaries, which, like the arterioles, may participate in the area of increased peripheral resistance; (2) in non-toxic hypertonus the blood pressure as registered in the radial artery commonly remains unaltered or may be greatly diminished. The obstruction to the flow of blood is the same in cases of arterio-sclerosis in old people, where the lumen of the radial artery was greatly diminished, I have found the blood pressure regularly low, but there was no reason to suppose that the capillary area was unduly obstructed. Similarly in old syphilitic vessels with nearly obliterated lumina, the pressure registered was sometimes very low.

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