

in the septum or auricles, and were by no means equally extensive in all cases.

The changes in the myocardium underlying dilatation and cardiac failure are, then, substantially alike in both aortic and mitral disease. In both they consist in connective-tissue growth and degeneration of the muscle-tissue consequent on impairment of the circulation in the heart-wall, in the one case resulting from disease of the coronary arteries, in the other from long-continued and excessive congestion of the coronary veins.

As accounting for the relatively early appearance of cardiac dilatation in mitral disease, Banti lays much stress upon the inherent weakness of the right side of the heart, which renders it less able to adjust itself to the increased strain thrown upon it than is the more powerful left ventricle.

THE PRESERVATION OF ORGANIZED URINARY SEDIMENTS.

It is often very desirable for purposes of instruction or demonstration and for comparison at different times in the course of a case of nephritis to be able to preserve any organized sediment which may be present in the urine.

This, according to FISCHER (*Prager medicinische Wochenschrift*, 1895, No. 12), may be accomplished by washing the sediment two or three times with normal salt-solution, best with the aid of the centrifugal machine, and preserving it in equal parts of glycerin and water to which a little (about 2 per cent.) saturated alcoholic solution of thymol has been added.

Sediments treated in this way preserve their structural characters indefinitely and may at any time be mounted for study with the microscope by simply placing a drop of the mixture on a slide, covering it, and preventing evaporation by a ring of varnish.

THE ELIMINATION OF URIC ACID AND XANTHIN-DERIVATIVES BY THE ALIMENTARY CANAL.

So much stress having lately been laid upon increase of uric acid in the urine as an indication of various disorders of nutrition, it is of interest to know that the occurrence of uric acid and certain xanthin-bases as normal excretions of the alimentary mucous membrane has been shown by WEINTRAUD (*Centralblatt für innere Medizin*, 1895, No. 18).

In a case of leucæmia in which there was a very great increase in the leucocytes, but only slight increase in the uric-acid excretion by the urine, a considerable amount of substance responding to the tests for the xanthin-group of bodies was discovered in the feces, amounting in terms of hypoxanthin to about one gram for the twenty-four hours.

On investigation a variable quantity of these bodies was found to be a constant ingredient of the feces. Their presence was, furthermore, determined to be quite independent of the character of the food. They were still present during a strictly milk-diet, although the decomposition of the nucleo-albumins of milk does not yield any of the-xanthin-group; and also when a non-nitrogenous diet was taken. They were detected in the accumulated meconium in a case of *atresia ani*. Nor was their quantity greatly increased by a diet rich in nucleo-albumins, as was shown by examinations made after the ingestion of considerable quantities of calf's thymus.