

Since the publication of the three cases related by me in 1849, I have, through the kindness of my professional brethren, seen many additional examples of this affection, a large proportion of which have gradually undergone a cure, while the remainder have benefited, or are now benefiting, by the use of iron, animal food, and fresh air. It is of great consequence to impress those suffering from this affection with the belief of its curable nature, and to urge upon them the persistent employment of the means of restoring the red particles of the impoverished blood, and improving the general health; for we have now examples before us to show that the neglect of these rules must lead, from functional disorder of the heart, to dilatation of its cavities, and to the usual train of consequences resulting from such a morbid change.

The more extended our experience of the phenomena constituting this peculiar affection becomes, the more convinced shall we be that the point of departure from health is not in the heart itself, but in the impoverished condition of the blood, which, after a time, affects the heart and vessels functionally, and, by long continuance, involves them ultimately in fatal organic change.—*Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, April, 1855.

59. *Affection of the Heart, Thyroid Gland, and Eyeballs.* By Drs. ROMBERG and HENOCH, of Berlin.—This disease, to which attention has been drawn by Marsh, Begbie, Cooper, &c., in Great Britain, seems also to be well known in Germany, and many examples of it have been observed by Pauli, Brueck, Basedow, and lastly by the authors whose interesting paper we have now before us—Romberg and Henoch. Though differing in regard to the etiology of the disease as a whole, and disagreeing to a certain extent in the account given of the rise and occasion of its individual symptoms; still, in the descriptions of all the writers now named, there exists so remarkable a uniformity, as to satisfy us of the identity of the disease which each has observed.

We shall, in the first place, make our readers acquainted with some of the cases in an abridged form, and the remarks of Romberg and Henoch, and then add a few observations of our own, which the perusal of the former have called forth.

*Case 1.*—A. S., aged fourteen, who had never menstruated, was treated, in the clinical ward, for anæmia, and cured by a preparation of iron. In October, 1849, she again became a patient, her former disease having returned. At that time, the extraordinary paleness of her skin revealed her anæmic condition. The right lobe of the thyroid was swollen, and the jugular vessels were seen pulsating. The anæmic sound was clearly audible in the neck. There was the evidence of an enlargement of the heart, and its first sound was at the base accompanied by a bellows murmur. The patient suffered from dyspnoea, increased by motion and from great weariness. The bowels were irregular. On the 12th November she was ordered to take iron, which, with a short interruption, she continued to do till January, 1850. At that date, a decided improvement in her whole system was visible.

*Case 2.*—A girl of eighteen, who had first menstruated a year previously, began to complain of violent palpitation and uneasiness in the region of the heart, brought on chiefly by exertion, especially in ascending stairs. At the same time, a swelling had appeared in the front of the neck, and at times she expectorated blood. The diagnosis, after examination of the heart, was that something more than functional disorder existed, and that valvular disease was present. In this patient, as in the former one, the enlargement of the thyroid and the affection of the heart existed, but the eyes were not implicated. She differed from the former case in not presenting an anæmic appearance.

*Case 3.*—Mrs. R., aged forty-seven, subject for many years to numerous hysterical complaints, was admitted into the Clinic May 18, 1849. She complained especially of violent palpitation of the heart, and consequent agitation. During the attacks of palpitation she experienced a feeling of tightness in the throat, and a glimmering before the eyes. The thyroid was evidently enlarged, particularly in its right lobe, and in it she experienced a sense of pulsation and of pain during the occurrence of the palpitation. Then, also, the eyes became unusually large, and appeared starting from their sockets in such a manner as

to expose her to the laughter of bystanders. The catamenia were regular, but scanty. The pulsations of the heart were increased to 100 in the minute, but otherwise there was no change detected. She was hysterical, suffered from weariness and from irritability of temper, with inclination to weep. Although the symptoms had existed for nearly two years, they had considerably increased during the previous four months. In this patient the manifestation of anæmia was very clear. A mixture of digitalis, with phosphoric acid and valerian, were the remedial means employed, and amendment was so speedy that in July of the same year she was able to take a situation as lady's maid, and went to Dobberan, where she experienced great benefit from the use of the sea baths. In March, 1850, she was seen entirely freed from her former ailments.

*Case 4.*—C. L., aged twenty, first menstruated at the age of thirteen, and suffered thereafter from complete amenorrhœa for a whole year. During this period she had a trifling swelling on the front of the neck. Menstruation again returned, but very irregularly, and the girl, from being blooming and robust, became pale and weak; the thyroid swelling increased; palpitation of the heart succeeded, and then followed a strange largeness of the eyes. Considerable benefit was obtained in this case from the steady use of iron.

*Case 5.*—Mrs. B., aged twenty-five, presented herself at the Clinic on July 7, 1848. Always healthy, and having regularly menstruated. She had for three weeks been occasionally exposed to a draught, when washing, with her neck uncovered. She had felt pain in the front of the neck, and had latterly noticed a slight swelling in the situation of the thyroid. On examination at the Clinic, the same remarkable prominence of the eyes as noticed in the other cases was observed, still the sight was not affected. Violent action of the heart existed; and in the thyroidal tumour, now greatly increased, and very large, as also in the head, the pulsation was inordinate. The pulse was 144. Three cups of blood were taken, and in the following week leeches were applied to the enlarged thyroid; from these measures an evident, though temporary, amelioration followed. Afterwards (early in 1850), from the use of digitalis, and due in great measure to the regular return of the menses, which had been much interrupted, restoration to sound health occurred.

*Case 6.*—A. B., a young girl, aged seventeen, had suffered from violent palpitations for two years; had also an attack of typhus fever, and had been neglected, owing to living in a country village. Was admitted into the Clinic November, 1847, when her appearance was most striking. The eyes were protruded; the sight, however, unaffected. The thyroid was greatly enlarged, and appeared throbbing; a loud systolic murmur was heard, and peculiar thrill felt over it. In this case, the occurrence of the palpitation was evidently followed by increase in the size of both thyroid and eyes. Pulse equal and regular—116. Bloodletting was adopted three times in the treatment of this case, and after a little time a leech was applied every fourth day to the enlarged thyroid; as in the former case, a temporary benefit resulted. The girl appears to have ultimately fallen a victim to tubercular disease in the chest, surviving the time of her first illness for nearly three years.

Taking the cases which have occurred in their own experience, and those which have been elsewhere recorded, there are in all twenty-seven which form the subject of the following interesting remarks by Drs. Romberg and Henoch. They acknowledge twenty-seven to be too small a number of observations to warrant any very decided opinions being drawn from them, but, at the same time, believe it sufficiently large to afford the groundwork for much useful study. By far the larger number of the patients were females, only four of the twenty-seven were males. All with one exception were young, the most common age being between twenty and thirty. In the larger number of the cases there existed the combination of the three symptoms of palpitation of the heart—enlargement of the thyroid and prominence of the eyes; while in six of the twenty-seven cases one or other of the three was absent. In the two cases first treated by Dr. Romberg in the Clinic, the prominence of the eyes was not observable. Undoubtedly of these phenomena the palpitation of the heart is the one best understood, and corresponds most readily with the view taken of the

whole disease. Almost always the cardiac symptoms are those first discovered and first complained of; then, after a longer or shorter period, the swelling in the neck commences, and the prominence of the eyes follows. Only a few of the recorded cases lead to the supposition that the three diseased appearances arose at about the same time, certainly in the fifth case treated in the Clinic the enlarged thyroid was the first symptom noticed. It is well to inquire wherein the original affection of the heart consists. That in some instances there exists organic disease is proved as well by examination during life as by *post-mortem* examination (Basedow and Marsh); but, again, in others it is equally certain that the cardiac symptoms depend merely on an increased irritability of the organ (Cooper, Begbie, Lubarsch). Cases explicable on both these grounds, and on these only, have been treated by the Clinic. In regard to the thyroïdal swelling, it is interesting to note its increase and subsidence after the violence of the cardiac palpitation—this fact is expressly stated by Sir Henry Marsh, and mentioned by Begbie as existing in his third case, and also noticeable at times in the fourth; this, of course, points to an intimate relation between the two symptoms. Marsh and Heusinger describe the condition of the thyroid as a true hypertrophy, and it has been noticed by Graves that, after the lapse of years, the consistence of the gland has been much increased.

As regards the remarkable prominence of the eyes, this symptom comes on gradually, and so far as vision is concerned it is not of much importance, seeing that only in one case (Lubarsch) was it at all seriously impaired; but, though sight is not much affected, the prominence of the eyes produces a singular disfigurement, causing the sufferer to be not unfrequently avoided in company. Acknowledging the great difficulty of determining upon what peculiar condition the prominence of the eyes depends, our authors set aside the view of the increase of the aqueous humour causing a true enlargement of the eye (Begbie—the theory also adopted by Dr. Stokes), also that which attempts a solution by reference to an hypertrophy of the post-ocular cellular tissue (Basedow). They look upon the idea of the prominence being due to a want of tone in the ocular muscles, and an accompanying congestion in the posterior parts of the eye (Cooper, Dalrymple) as more likely; but they appear to think still more favourably of the view of Heusinger, who found in two cases an extraordinary accumulation of fat in the cellular tissue behind the eyes, and regards it as the probable cause of the exophthalmos.

Again, regarding the disease as a whole, our authors proceed to remark that certainly the larger number of the individuals so affected exhibited evident symptoms of anæmia, such as a remarkable paleness of the skin, the peculiar sound audible in the bloodvessels of the neck; headaches often very violent; giddiness, especially when in the upright posture; humming sound in the ears; attacks of fainting; small frequent pulse, &c. Irregularity of the catamenia also is commonly present, while fluor albus, and sometimes complete amenorrhœa, have been found. Symptoms of an hysterical nature further distinguished not a few of the cases, the globus hystericus, neuralgic pains in different parts, coldness of the extremities, and strange wanderings of the mind. Basedow describes a remarkable calmness and a great desire for pleasure as characteristic features of the mental condition. In some of the cases it is clear that if the disease was not originated, at all events it was furthered by the occurrence of a severe hemorrhage or flux, which reduced the system (Begbie); also a depressed state of both body and mind seemed connected with its first occurrence (Graves). But though anæmia was present in a large number of the cases, there are others whose commencement could not be traced to it, and anæmia cannot therefore be regarded as an essential requisite towards the explanation of the complex phenomena. The irregularity in the uterine system, too, cannot be regarded as altogether explanatory of the disease; for, independently of males being subject to it, these uterine derangements, though marked, were of very varying nature. Heusinger directs attention to the condition of the spleen, which he found after death much increased in volume and manifestly diseased.—*Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journ.*, April, 1855, from *Klinische Wahrnehmungen und Beobachtungen*.