

A CASE OF PERICARDITIS AND CARDIAC HYPERTROPHY IN A HORSE.

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A WELL-MARKED example of these diseases having come under my observation, I thought it would interest some of the members of the Academy of Medicine to examine the specimen, and to hear the notes which were taken by Mr. James M'Kenny, the well-known veterinary surgeon of Stephen's-green.

The animal, a bay gelding, sixteen hands high, aged, was placed under his care on 14th December, 1884, suffering from pleuro-pneumonia, which so yielded to treatment that he was discharged from his infirmary, in good spirits, eating well, but weak, on January 5th, 1885. On January 12th it returned to hospital with symptoms of great exhaustion; pulse 120, irregular; respiratory sound over formerly diseased parts normal, except at the inferior and posterior part of left pleura, where a friction sound remained. There was a friction sound also over the region of the heart.

The heart's sounds became dull, and subsequently there was a peculiar noise as of water dropping into a tin vessel. The animal refused all food. Mustard was applied over heart. Stimulants and diaphoretics were administered, and he was drenched with flax-seed tea and flour. Under this treatment he gradually improved, and continued to do so until January 21st, when he got suppression of urine. The pulse, which had come down to 60, increased to 100. He was ordered digitalis, spiritus ætheris nitrosi, flax-seed tea, and mustard over loins. Jan. 22nd.—Kidneys acting. 23rd.—Pulse slightly improved. 24th.—Serious relapse; pulse weak and quick, so that it could not accurately be counted; heart's

sounds muffled and dull; dropping noise had ceased; died suddenly. On *post mortem* examination evidence of recent inflammation existed at posterior part of left pleura; the pericardium was enormously distended, containing fully four gallons of yellow fluid; lung in vicinity of heart inflamed.

Description of Specimen.—The heart and pericardium weigh one stone and a-half, the normal weight of a horse's heart being about six pounds. The right ventricle at its thickest part measures one inch, and at the apex $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The wall of the left ventricle measures $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and also at apex $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Remarks.—The hypertrophy is doubtless of old standing, and appears to have been caused chiefly by the heavy work the animal was called upon to perform during life. The pericarditis, which is quite recent, appears to have been secondary to the pleuro-pneumonia, while the immediate cause of death was the enormous amount of fluid suddenly effused into the pericardium.