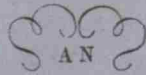


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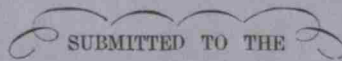


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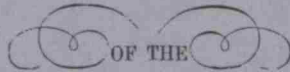
ON

*Aneurisms*



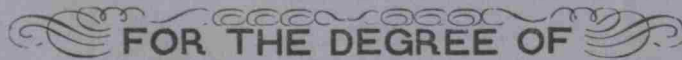
SUBMITTED TO THE

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND MEDICAL FACULTY



OF THE

University of Nashville,



FOR THE DEGREE OF

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

BY

*L. Black*

OF

*Tennessee*

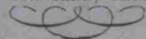


1856

CHARLES W. SMITH,

BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER,

NASHVILLE, TENN.



## Aneurisms

None but  
Those who have passed through  
the ordeal of Thesis writing, can  
imagine the feelings and emot=  
=ions of the student when he sits  
himself down to the task of com=  
=posing his essay, a task which  
is rendered incumbent on every  
one who is aspiring to the honors  
of the degree of Dr of Medicine  
Searching through the whole  
list of diseases for one upon which  
he thinks he can possibly compose a  
passable Thesis - At last selects the  
subject and after many investigations  
of his selected subject in the various  
authors who have devoted their

time to the study of the diseases, he endeavours to collect his ideas and put them on paper, conscious of his utter inability to say any thing that has not heretofore been said, knowing his perfect incapacity of ~~ever~~ endeavouring to reason his subject - contents himself with the mere recalling of the various symptoms and facts pertaining to the disease. Hoping its various imperfections will be viewed with indulgence by the Professors, men who have grown old, whose locks have been bleached by the withering process of time, in the study of their favourite subject - Not saying



any thing, whatever concerning  
 the utility of thesis writing,  
 knowing that his opinion  
 will be lightly viewed - and per=  
 haps with feelings any thing,  
 but enviable he composes his  
 essay, thus I will commence.

Aneurisms - I have sele=  
 -cted this subject, not because I  
 think I can say any thing  
 pertaining to originality, but  
 because it is a subject that has  
 and ought to interest every med=  
 -ical man. Aneurism properly  
 speaking is a tumour produced  
 by the dilatation of an artery,  
 but the name has been extended  
 to various lesions of arteries as

well as dilatations of the heart,

Aneurisms have been variously divided by different authors, but the simple division into two kinds viz, the True and False aneurisms, answer the description better perhaps than any other.

True aneurism signifies a dilatation of one or all of the coats of an artery, but generally the two external ones.

False aneurisms are the ones arising from a wound of an artery and may not have any of the coats involved in the tumor.

Aneurisms are also distinguished

by the form they assume, Thus for an example, we may have one called fusiform from its being spindle shaped. In aneurism of this shape all the coats of an artery are involved, Again we have one called cylindrical and is formed by all the coats as in the fusiform, but the difference of form arising from the suddenness or abrupt bulging, or dilatation of the artery, this is the form most usually met with in practice.

The next form is that of the sacculated variety, this is one where there is a pouch like tumor formed in the side of an artery,



This form is also frequently met with in practice and is the one in which the cure is effected most readily; the more the pouch like dilatation the more easily the cure.

Circumscribed aneurism is one where the outlines of the tumor may be defined, it is of the false kind as usually occurring in cases where the blood exudes from the vessel sometime after the receipt of the wound and forms itself a sack in the neighbouring cellular tissue. The diffused is where the aneurism has no sack but loses itself in the surrounding tissue, this as the circumscribed, is

of a variety of the puls kind.

The dissecting aneurism has not until recent years been accurately described by writers. In this variety, the blood is transposed between the coats of the artery and burrows or dissects them from each other. Sometimes throughout the entire length of the artery, sometimes the blood after remaining for some length beneath the coats of the artery finds its way back into the proper channel through an opening in the internal coat, but usually it bursts through and the blood is transposed in the tissue surrounding and causes



sloughing of the parts. Aneurisms vary greatly in size from that of an almond to that of a tumor several inches in thickness. It frequently happens that more than one aneurism is found in the same individual as high as seven has been found in the different arteries of a person, this is what is to be expected as the disease that produces a true aneurism in one part of the body is liable to occur in the same tissue in a more remote part

In true aneurism the coats of an artery are weakened by disease and give way to the pressure of the blood flowing through its

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inner surface, the enlargement thus commenced continues to enlarge unless prevented by the surrounding parts, there are two forms of disease similar to aneurism viz 1<sup>st</sup> A Steatomatous condition of one or more of the coats, 2<sup>nd</sup> Calcareous deposits between the coats.

This disease occurs most frequently in the middle periods of life seldom met with in children and only occasionally met with in the aged and then it most generally occurs from a calcareous deposit. As regards sex it is frequently met with in the male than in the female, The course of

This difference is owing to the different habits and occupations of the two sexes, As regards seat of the affection it is most frequently met with in the larger arteries, and more frequently in the aorta than in any other

The remote cause of the disease is generally obscure but the immediate cause can generally be easily found  
Symptoms - are the existence of a tumor in the course of an artery of a pulsating character gradually growing larger as it is observed from time to time, If the hand or finger be placed on the artery, between the tumor and the heart or in other words on the proximal



extremity of the artery the tumor will be seen to grow less or entirely disappear, and as soon as the pressure is removed it will again assume its former size. You must not rely on the pulsation exclusively as a diagnostic sign of aneurism, as a tumor of a different character may have a pulsative thrill from lying in contact with a large artery or over its course.

The bellows sound is heard when the ear is placed over the seat of the disease it resembles a blowing sound not unlike the noise made by a bellows.

The thrill of the tumor is distinguished by placing the hand over the tumor. This thrill as well as the bellows murmur

is ~~not~~ characteristic of aneurism as it is found in other diseases, as chlorosis and in some cases of anemia particularly that state of anemia produced from excessive hemorrhage.

Aneurism is often accompanied with severe pain, the cause of this is owing to the pressure or tension produced in the nerves by the tumor, In some cases the larger trunks of the nerve are found spread out over the surface of the tumor, consequently there is no pain of any consequence felt by the patient, where there is a larger nerve involved in the tumor, the suffering of the patient is very great, and if not relieved will prove fatal in the end

swelling, of an oedematous character sometimes occur, this is owing to venous obstruction, as when there is a tumor in the course of a large venous trunk.

Diagnosis is generally easily made during the first stages and are distinguished by the symptoms given above, but sometimes there is great obscurity, owing to the want of an accurate history of the case. When this is the case you have to take all of the circumstances connected with the case into consideration ~~and~~ such as the diathesis, In some cases of this character exploration with an exploring needle will be of some aid in making the diagnosis.

Prognosis, where aneurism is left



To itself it is almost always unfavourable  
 It continues as a general rule to grow  
 from bad to worse until the tumor  
 ruptures and puts an end to the patient

The rupture of an aneurismal tumor  
 is not of necessity immediately fatal  
 particularly when it is near the  
 surface but if these be not remedied  
 they destroy life by their frequent  
 occurrence, Pressure from the tumor  
 of important organs sometimes  
 proves fatal as when the tumor is  
 near the trachea, sometimes it produces  
 an absorption of bone from the pressure  
 of the tumor, this is the case when you  
 have an aneurismal tumor on the  
 spinal column

Duration, is variable it may continue

long but is sometimes early fatal  
 Spontaneous cures sometimes occur  
 by a gradual filling up of the sack  
 by coagulable lymph, occasionally  
 a spontaneous cure is effected by  
 inflammation causing the sides  
 of the artery to adhere to each other  
 sometimes by the pressure of the  
 tumor on the course of the artery  
 effects a cure, effusion of blood  
 in the cellular tissue by a rupture  
 of the tumor will occasionally pro-  
 duce a cure if it does not cause  
 death from gangrene. A tumor  
 of a different kind may cause a  
 cure by pressure on the artery so  
 as to cause an abolition of its canal  
 Treatment - There are two kinds

of treatment for aneurism tying  
 and compression, and when neither  
 of these means can not be resorted  
 to you must put the patient  
 in such a position as will be  
 most favourable to a spontaneous  
 cure by position and by proper diet

Compression is often eff=  
 ected and has the advantage where  
 it can be easily resorted to of being  
 safer than ligaturing. In the  
 application of pressure you  
 should be careful not to make  
 it in the whole circumference of  
 the limb as you will produce  
 a disagreeable swelling from  
 the venous abstraction. It  
 should be made immediately over



The course of the artery and at a point on the opposite side of the limb leaving the circulation in the balance of the limb unaltered. Great benefit may be derived by keeping the action of the blood as slow and languid as possible, without impoverishing the system, Nutritious diet as possible without stimulating too much, also keep the mind composed and in some cases take a little blood to unload the vessels which are oppressed by their contents, there is but little said by authors concerning the particular drugs in this disease. Digitalis is sometimes used with advantage, also acetate of lead but these are only palliatives.