

The Nursing of Heart Diseases.

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CHAPTER I.

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In response to the requests of various readers, the position of the Heart in its relation to the chest walls and to the lungs is illustrated by the appended diagram which shows the pericardium cut away in front. It can now be seen how the apex of the organ beats against the chest walls in the interspace between the 5th and 6th ribs, and why the sounds of the organ are therefore most distinctly heard at this point.

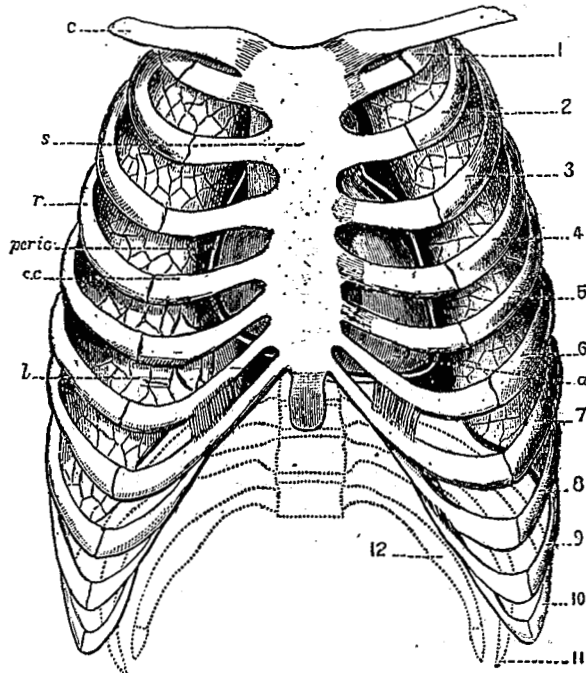


FIG. 1.
The Position of the Heart (Foster and Shore.)
A. The Heart's apex with the pericardium opened in front; Nos. 1-12 The Ribs; C. The Clavicle; S. The Sternum; L. The Lungs; C.C. Costal Cartilages connecting the ribs with the breastbone.

As an anatomical fact, however, the Heart is more covered by lung tissue than is shown in this diagram, so that when there is disease of the front of the left lung it can easily be understood that there may be considerable pressure thus made upon the heart—with more or less disturbance, therefore, of its action.

It is so important, also, to the clear understanding of the diseases to which the Heart is liable, that the work which the organ performs in health, and the method by which the circula-

tion of the blood through the body is maintained, should be comprehended, that it will be time well spent to study the following diagram—showing in outline the course of the blood stream through the double circulation, as it is called; viz., through the lungs, and through the rest of the body. This sketch for which, like the former, we are indebted to Foster & Shore's excellent little Manual on Physiology, also shows an important adjunct to the circulation in the shape of the lacteal and lymphatic canals. The former collect a fluid from the intestines,

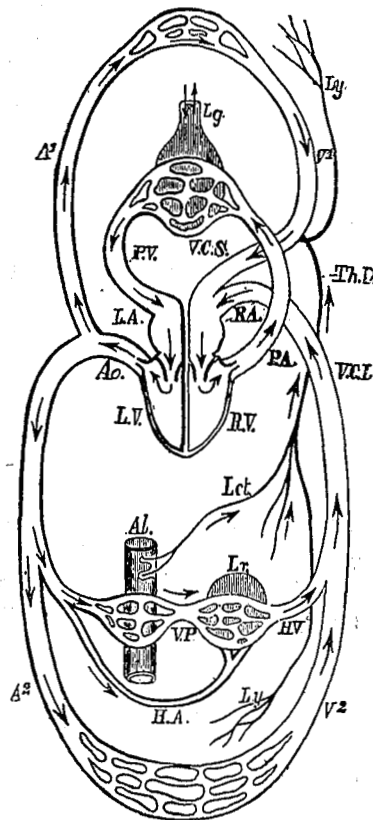


FIG. 2.
Diagram of the Circulation (Foster and Shore), the direction being shown by the arrows.
R. A. and L. A., Right and Left Auricle; R. V. and L. V., Right and Left Ventricular. Lung circulation; P. A., Pulmonary Artery; P. V., Pulmonary vein; A1 and V1, Arteries and veins of neck and head; A2 and V2, Arteries and Veins of trunk and limbs; Al, Alimentary canal, with lacterals (Lct); Ly, lymphatic canals from limbs and trunk; V. C. S., Vena cava superior; V.P., Postal vein; H. A. and H. V., Hepatic Artery and Vein.

excreted from the products of digestion, and which may be described as the concentrated essence of the nourishment which has been taken and passed through the intestines. It would be outside the limits of these Lectures to dwell at greater length on this fluid, but it may be remembered as the food of the blood.

(To be continued).

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