# THE HEART AND ITS DISEASES

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The Heart and Its Diseases by C. T. Hood

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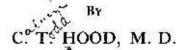
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## C. T. HOOD

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ATTENDING PHYSICIAN COOR COUNTY HOSPITAL

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PRESS OF THE HENRY O. SHEPARD COMPANY CHICAGO To the general medical man, who, in his endeavor to meet the demands thrust upon him, has no time for extensive reading, this little volume is dedicated by the

AUTHOR.

## PREFACE

If the making of books upon diseases of the heart truly there is no end." The object of this small volume is to present to the student and general practitioner what is definitely known of the diseases of the heart and their scientific treatment. Theories and the discussion of the differential diagnoses of heart condition not admitting of a positive diagnosis are omitted.

Each statement as to pathological findings, clinical symptoms and treatment have been repeatedly proven at the postmortem and the bedside, and may be taken as facts.

> C. T. Hood, 1276 Washington boul.

Сителео, September 1, 1904.

## INTRODUCTION

HE ability to correctly diagnose the ordinary diseases of the heart, and to treat them in the light of modern scientific medical knowledge, can be acquired by any student of medicine. The diagnosis of the less common diseases of the heart is, even in the hands of the specialist, more often speculative than certain. Yet the diagnosis of the ordinary diseases of the heart is, in the majority of cases, a matter of the application of certain well-known laws of physics and the interpretation of long-established clinical data. The scientific treatment of these ordinary diseases of the heart is along lines now past the experimental stage, and is agreed upon by scientific men of all schools; nevertheless, many lives are sacrificed each year from a lack of easily acquired knowledge of the treatment of these diseases on the part of the medical man. There are four principal reasons why the general medical man fails to properly diagnose the ordinary diseases of the heart, and to treat them upon scientific lines:

First. The lack of a proper knowledge of the anatomy and of the physiology of the heart.

Second. The lack of pathological knowledge.

Third. The lack of a scientific knowledge of the action of the so-called heart remedies.

Fourth. But the greatest error is the attempt to study and to treat the diseases of the heart by name, neglecting to study and treat the heart as an organ.

Let us, then, before we take up the study of the

diseases of the heart, spend some time upon the study of its anatomy, physiology and pathology, give a general consideration to the forces concerned in its normal action and the laws of physics under which these forces act, making a review also of the so-called heart remedies.

## ANATOMY OF THE HEART

The heart is a hollow muscular organ of conical form, enclosed in the pericardial sac. Its surfaces are generally convex, except where it rests upon the pericardium where that sac comes in contact with the diaphragm and is attached to its central tendon. This portion of the heart is flattened.

The heart is situated obliquely across the median line of the chest, its base up, and beneath the second intercostal space. From the base of the heart arise the large blood vessels *leaving* the heart and which *enter* the large blood vessels going to the heart. These large blood vessels attached to the base of the heart, together with the pericardium, which covers them for some distance, form the only support of the heart, leaving it free throughout to move and to enlarge as required.

The shape of the heart varies during life according to its time of action, namely, at rest, filling or contracting, but its vertical measurements do not change. It may be displaced downward by disease.

The dimensions of the heart vary with age, sex, occupation and the general development of the individual. The average measurements of the heart in a well-developed adult male are: length, about 5 inches from base to apex; across the base, 3½ inches; thickness, 2½ inches. As a rule, these measurements increase up to fifty years of age, and decrease after that time of life.

The weight of the heart is about ten ounces in the male, and eight ounces in the female, but the weight will vary to some extent according to the weight of the individual.