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Nowadays, with the free X-ray examinations of the lungs, a number of persons who thought they were healthy are found to have an aneurysm of the aorta, or big artery that comes out of the heart.

When such a discovery is made, the person will do well to go quickly to a large medical institution where he can find a surgeon who is expert in operating in the chest and who has the equipment and the skill and experience that is needed in taking out a section of a big artery, and inserting a short length of tubing to take its place.

Many people ask, "But isn't the operation dangerous?" Yes, it is, but when a man is faced with death from an aneurysm, he cannot choose: he cannot say he is afraid of the operation; there is only one thing he can do and that is to find a very able surgeon and then let him go to work.

Occasionally I see a worrisome man of 50 who is much upset because, during a routine examination, the electrocardiogram showed a "bundle branch block." The fact that the man was quite unconscious of anything wrong with his heart should have shown him that the abnormality is not worth worrying about. His heart is still pumping away normally, and that is what counts.

The "bundle" in the heart is a tract of specialized muscle which carries the heart beat from the base of the heart down to its apex. When, in rare cases, the bundle is completely blocked by the plugging-up of an artery in the heart, the pulse rate drops to 40 a minute or less, and the patient is likely to have serious annoyance, perhaps with brief spells of unconsciousness due to an occasional failure of enough blood to get to the brain. But when only one of the branches of the bundle is blocked, there rarely is any trouble.

An intelligent man I see wrote that a few weeks ago, when he read my article on the treatment of Parkinson's disease with a number of new drugs, he got his doctor to give him a few pills containing the drug most highly recommended by the expert from whose article I quoted.

My correspondent said that in the evening he took one of these pills and soon several unpleasant things began to happen in the several parts of his body, and he became so uncomfortable he feared he was going to die.

This is one great trouble with some of the new drugs which serve to quiet the action of certain nerves. If the person is not hypersensitive to the drug, and if the dose given is the suitable one for the patient, the result may be delightful; but if, as happened in this man's case, he was overly sensitive, or the dose he took was too big, he suffered.

One thing we doctors and the drug-makers often forget is that a drug which will, in a way, disconnect a certain nerve which perhaps is producing a high blood pressure, is likely to disconnect a whole series of similar nerves in many parts of the body, and as a result the person may feel dizzy and woozy, he may not walk when he stands up, he may not see well, his heart may race, he may perspire all over, and he may have trouble urinating.

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San Diego Chron Oct 29 1961