

EFFECTS OF EMPLOYMENT ON THE COURSE OF HEART DISEASE

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IN PREVIOUS reports,¹ analyses of the occupational status of groups of cardiac clinic patients taken at a fixed point of time have been presented. It has been pointed out^{1b} that such studies are of limited value, since they provide little or no information regarding the effects of employment on the course of heart disease, nor, conversely, do they show the effects of heart disease on continuing employment. The present report represents an attempt to throw some light on these two important and basic problems.

An ideal place to study the effects of employment on heart disease and of heart disease on employment over long periods of time would obviously be the industrial medical department. Unfortunately, relatively few such departments maintain detailed occupational histories which can be correlated with cardiac histories, and even fewer have utilized standard diagnostic criteria and nomenclature.² The latter deficiency introduces serious difficulties when it comes to interpreting records and reports. A notable exception is a recent article by Crain, Missal and Wilson,³

This study was aided by grants from the New York Heart Association and the Knapp Foundation.

This report is the second of a series to be published by the Staff of the Work Classification Unit, Adult Cardiac Clinic, Third (New York University) Medical Division, Bellevue Hospital, New York.

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1. (a) Kresky, B., and Goldwater, L. J.: Occupational Potentialities of Cardiac Patients, *Am. Heart J.* **27**:623-633 (May) 1944. (b) Staff of the Work Classification Unit, Adult Cardiac Clinic, Third (New York University) Medical Division, Bellevue Hospital, New York: An Occupational Analysis of 580 Cardiac Clinic Patients, *Circulation* **3**:289-293 (Feb.) 1951.

2. New York Heart Association, Criteria Committee: Nomenclature and Criteria for Diagnosis of Diseases of the Heart, ed. 4, New York, New York Tuberculosis and Health Association, 1939.

3. Crain, R. B.; Missal, M. E., and Wilson, K. W.: The Industrial Employee with Myocardial Infarction: His Ability to Return to Work, *Arch. Indust. Hyg. & Occup. Med.* **1**:525-538 (May) 1950.