Clinical and other Notes.

THE QUINIDINE TREATMENT OF AURICULAR FIBRILLATION.

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The writer is indebted to Dr. T. F. Cotton, of University College Hospital, Consultant in Cardiology to Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, for permission to publish the notes and tracings of the undermentioned case which was treated at the Queen Alexandra Hospital under his supervision.

Colonel N., aged 46, was admitted December 15, 1921, with the history of having crashed from an aeroplane in Egypt on August 15, 1921, sustaining severe injuries to the pelvis and a traumatic right-sided pneumothorax.

Cardiac irregularity was present from shortly after the date of the injury and persisted.

On examination at Queen Alexandra Military Hospital the polygraph tracings showed an arrhythmia which suggested auricular fibrillation. There was no evidence of gross organic heart disease and no history of illness likely to cause any disease of the heart. Patient was sent to Dr. Cotton for further opinion, and the electrocardiogram A confirmed the condition of auricular fibrillation.

Electrocardiogram A.—Fibrillation.

Quinidine treatment was begun on January 9, 1922. The patient having been free from administration of digitalis for seven days, a dose of 0.2 gramme quinidine sulphate (in cachet) was given to determine if any quinine sensitiveness was present. The following day 1.2 grammes of quinidine sulphate were given in three equal doses at 8, 11 and 14 hours.

On the second day of treatment the polygraph tracing (P1) showed the auricle
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still fibrillating. Two grammes of the salt were given in five equal doses on this day at 8, 11, 14, 18 and 20 hours. The next day (third day of treatment) the pulse and apex beat were both steady and regular at sixty-six per minute with no discoverable arrhythmia (see polygraph tracing P2). Three doses of the salt (0.4 gramme each) were again given on this day.

On the fourth day of treatment the pulse and apex beat were still regular at sixty-nine to seventy per minute.

Polygraph Tracing P1.—Fibrillation.

Polygraph Tracing P2.—Normal rhythm restored.

Electrocardiogram B.—Normal rhythm restored.

On the fifth day of treatment the electrocardiogram B showed the auricle to have resumed its normal rate and to be transmitting normal impulses.

As the patient was to have a severe operation to the hip-joint it was considered advisable to continue 1.2 grammes of the salt daily up to the date of the operation. He was, however, allowed up and was able to take exercise from the fifth day of treatment.
The operation was performed on the fifteenth day from the commencement of treatment, and no relapse of cardiac condition occurred as a result of it, nor has there been any arrhythmia up to date.

A feature of interest in the case was the immediate disappearance of very troublesome and resistant gastric flatulence immediately the normal cardiac rhythm became restored. This treatment should never be attempted without daily polygraph tracings being taken, and access to the electrocardiograph in the hands of a specialist in cardiology is very advisable.

NOTE ON THE WASSERMANN REACTION CARRIED OUT ON AN UNSELECTED BRITISH MILITARY GARRISON.

By Captain D. W. Beamish.
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It is regretted that time and opportunity prevented me from carrying out more work on this subject as I particularly wanted to perform the test on the military followers of the garrison. Unfortunately I was transferred to another station where the opportunity did not present itself.

However in case it may be of slight interest, I am recording my results.

Iyengar carried out the experiment on 400 totally unselected male Indian adults of various castes, religions, and occupations; he obtained a positive result in 88 out of 400 cases, or a percentage of 22.

The British garrison of Kasauli where the experiment was carried out consisted at the time of roughly 170. It included the Central Clerk's School, which in turn included men from various units; also the depot details who were mixed, and lastly the detachment of the battalion which was stationed there at the time.

Out of these I did the test on 145 which I think, may be considered representative of the garrison.

The ages ranged from 18 to 38, the average total service was four years and two months. About sixty per cent had seen active service. I did not have time to go into details of each man's previous medical history. Out of the 145, four positive results were obtained. None gave any history of previous syphilis, nor were there any signs of active disease present. One man who gave a result +1 was an old malaria case. The other three had no previous illnesses of interest. Bloods were taken into Wright's capsules.

The technique employed was method No. 4 described in the Medical Research Committee Report (1918).

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<th>Totals</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<td>Total examined</td>
<td>0 1 3 8</td>
<td>Positive Negative</td>
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<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>141 2 1 1</td>
<td>4 141</td>
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