

Report of a Post-Mortem examination in Case of Wm Patterson

On the evening of Saturday the
7th of June 1888 I was asked by Dr Cole⁵⁶
to go with him and assist in making
a post-mortem examination in case of
Wm Patterson aged ^{Wright over 210} 64 who had
died suddenly ^{ly} seeming from some
heart-trouble. Found the body very
fleshy evidently a case in which
any examination of the heart during
life would be exceedingly difficult.

An incision was made in the median
line over the sternum through its
entire length - from the lower end
of this a crucial incision was

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extended six or seven inches to either
side and the flaps dissected up
and turned to either side. A thickness
of one inch to one and one half inches
of adipose tissue was found over
the sternum - The costalages were
cut - at the junction with the ribs
and the sternum raised and held
by the hooks and chain exposing
the cavity of the chest - The lungs
seemed drawn back to either side
fully exposing the space occupied by
the heart - which was itself hidden by
a very heavy deposit of adipose tissue.
A little serum was seen - and present
on the parts revealed the fact that

There was a large amount of serum in the pleural cavity - About one gallon was removed. The adhesions were pulled away from the pericardium which seemed not to contain serum but when it was carefully opened it was found to contain a considerable quantity but not sufficient to distend it - The heart was found to be much enlarged - About one third above the normal size - The vessels were tied and the heart removed for examination. ~~The valves of the Aorta are~~

The aortic and Pulmonary valves were found perfect - A large grayish white fibrous clot was found

occupying the left side of the heart -

This was about 3 inches long by one inch

wide and in some parts near a half
 it ~~extended~~ ^{it extended} through the mitral orifice
 rich in thickness, a smaller clot -

of the same nature was found in the other
 side of the heart - The Mitral valve

was found to be short in its central
 portion looking a little as though it
 had been split up for two thirds its

length between the Chordae Tendineae
 with edges a little thickened and rounded

but presented nothing like excrescences
 or warty deposits - The tricuspid

valve was probably about normal

though it seemed ~~much~~ small as
 compared with the great size of the

size of the heart - No adhesions
were found anywhere No appearance
of recent inflammation was discovered
nor any osific deposits

G. V. Slack