

DISSERTATION

The Use of the Pulse-Ratio Test for Detecting Non-Compensated Organic Lesions of the Heart

Preliminary studies by Sievers¹ and others suggested that the pulse-ratio test or the response of the heart to exercises of graded intensity may serve as a basis for detecting non-compensated hearts.

In order to establish the validity of the pulse-ratio test as a means of detecting non-compensated organic lesions of the heart, it was given to 107 subjects who had been diagnosed as having some form of heart disease.

On the basis of the differences between the experimental and the calculated pulse-ratios as recorded in this study, the pulse-ratio test appears to be valid as a means of detecting non-compensated organic lesions of the heart. No indication as to the nature of the lesion is furnished by the data.

Seventy-five replies to one hundred questionnaires sent to members of college student health departments indicate their belief that information should be obtained by the lay instructor relative to the possibility of the presence of non-compensated heart lesions. These replies reveal also that the student health profession has no simple test for organic lesions which might be used by the lay instructor, and further indicate that there is need for such a test.

¹ Sievers, Henry: "A Simple Method of Detecting Abnormal Hearts by the Use of the Pulse-ratio Test." *Research Quart.*, 1935, 6: (May, 1935) 31-38.