

**CODE:** T3301 F8805/1

**ID NOS:** 5561 A8131

**DIAGNOSIS:** HEART - ALCOHOLIC CARDIOMYOPATHY.

**CLINICAL HISTORY:** M/41. The patient was known to be a chronic persistent alcoholic. There was also a long history of gradual cardiac enlargement with progressive intractable congestive cardiac failure. Functional mitral incompetence developed during the latter stages. There was no hypertension or clinical evidence of coronary artery disease.

**MACROSCOPIC:** The heart, particularly the left ventricle was greatly enlarged (weight 740 grams). The massive left ventricular dilatation has led to stretching of the mitral valve ring and thus to incompetence. The patchy pallor is artefactual.

**MICROSCOPIC:** The myocardial fibres are hypertrophied and in some areas there is a fine interstitial fibrosis. There are no specific histological features of this condition and the diagnosis is usually arrived at the exclusion of other aetiological agents together with the history of chronic alcoholism.

