

of the usual treatment of acute diseases, and in saying that the treatment of the four sailors was precisely similar to that of the emigrants, the reporter makes a very important error. I contend that this matter of getting rid of the carbonic acid from the atmosphere, which is usually referred to as of secondary importance, should be considered as much a part of the medical treatment as the administration of any article of the *materia medica*, as it is of much more serious consequence than the use of any one of them.

Two very grave cases of double pneumonia, lately treated, gave convincing evidence of the imperative necessity of ridding the air of the sick room of carbonic acid gas. In both cases I was satisfied that if the amount of carbonic acid which we find in average sick rooms had been added to the atmosphere of the room, the patients would have died, for they could not have borne the addition of any other depressing influence.

The first case was that of a young man, twenty years old, a book-keeper, not robust, and a sufferer from serious dyspepsia for several years past. * * *

The case was very grave when the pneumonia became double, and the patient's aspect was so bad on that morning that a neighboring physician, who was called in before I arrived, would not advise any remedies, as he considered him dying and past relief. The lividity of his nails continued very marked for two or three days. But persistent nourishment, active stimulation, free use of carbonate of ammonia, exchanged for the oil of turpentine when the sputa became watery and bloody, quinine, counter irritation, and the careful and thorough removal of carbonic acid from the air, brought him through. Although the weather was cool, so that we had a fire in the grate, two windows were kept constantly wide open, and an outer door, on the opposite side of the room, much of the time, and a current secured through the room, and across the bed. This was persisted in day and night, and in all weathers, including a cold rain storm; *and of all the agents in his treatment I considered the careful removal of the vitiated air the most important.* * * *

The other case referred to is that of a lady, 60 years of age, whom I treated in April, 1874, with double pneumonia, followed by diphtheria, involving the entire mouth and pharynx, which latter relapsed and was complicated with acute nephritis, characterized with albuminuria and oedema of lower extremities. Under a series of affections of so grave a character, a