

gave a bad prognosis, sixty-one per cent. having died in a short time. It was thus shown that the degree of decrease in the vital capacity in cardiac cases ran parallel to the tendency to the development of dyspnea and constituted a fairly accurate measure of this tendency.

The causes of this decrease in the vital capacity were many and included such conditions as pleural and pericardial effusions, emphysema, pulmonary edema, etc. In others, in whom there was no physical signs to account for this decrease, it had been shown that there was often a loss of elasticity of the lungs from pulmonary engorgement and back pressure on the right heart. From these studies it was found that the vital capacity remained the same as long as the clinical condition was constant, that it paralleled the clinical condition and the tendency to dyspnea, and that it gave a rough quantitative measure of the clinical condition where dyspnea was the presenting symptom. It was often of more value in this respect than the blood pressure or the pulse rate.

Finally some remarks were made on the mechanism of the production of a special type of breathing known as periodic respiration. This condition was found to be commoner than usually believed, but as yet no full explanation of its cause could be offered. It was proved that it was not due to acidosis, for the blood carbon dioxide was not abnormal. It was found as a normal phenomenon in many persons in sleep and was known to be aggravated by respiratory depressants such as morphine. It seemed to be best explained as due to an alteration in the excitability of the respiratory centre, and possibly in part to some lack of oxygen. It could be checked temporarily by the administration of caffeine, which was known to be a powerful stimulant of the respiratory centre.—
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THE REAL CANCER PROBLEM.

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CANCER has long been a problem over which master minds have wrestled, and to read much that is written it would seem that we were yet as far from its solution as ever. Countless able men, at the expense of millions of dollars, have labored faithfully in the laboratory, and it may safely be said that more effort and time have been expended in investigations on cancer, and more has been written concerning it, than ever in connection with any other disease affecting humanity. And yet its mortality is steadily increasing pitifully, in spite also of active, skillful, and faithful surgical treatment.